



Save the Children®

Intensification of Agriculture and Agroforestry Technologies (IAAT) for Climate Resilient Food and Nutrition Security: Tombouctou, Gao, Mopti, Koulikoro and Segou Regions of Mali

Annex 8: Gender Assessment and Action Plan

Accredited Entity: Save the Children Australia

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Acronyms

AEDD	Agency for Environment and Sustainable Development
CAEB	Advice and Support for Basic Education (CAEB)
CAFO	Coordination of Women's Associations and NGOs
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCM	Climate Change Mitigation
CNT	National Transition Council (Conseil National de la Transition)
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CDDR CCS	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission Local safety committees
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
CMAE	Conference of African Environment Ministers
CoFo	Property Commission
CREEDD	Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development
CRSS	Security Sector Reform Commission
CSA	Agreement Monitoring Committee (Comité de suivi de l'accord)
CVJR	Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission
DRPSIAP	Direction Régionale de la Planification, de la Statistique, de l'Informatique et Regional Planning
EDSM V ERAR	Mali Demographic and Health Survey V Regional Reconciliation Support Team
FAFE	Fond d'Appui à l'Autonomisation des Femmes et l'Épanouissement des Filles (Support fund for the empowerment of women and the development of girls)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FENAFER	National Federation of Rural Women
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
GBVIMS	Gender Based Violence Information Management System
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GDI	Gender Development Index
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
IAAT	Intensification of Agricultural and Agroforestry Techniques
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
LOA, MARN	Agricultural Orientation Law, National Reconciliation Support Mission
MGF	Female Genital Mutilation
MPFEF	Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family
MARN	National Reconciliation and Social Cohesion Process

NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization (reconciliation and social cohesion process at national)
ODD	Sustainable Development Objectives
OP	Political orientation
OS	Strategic Option
STP/CIGQE	Permanent Secretariat of the Institutional Committee for the Management of Environmental Issues
PBSG	Gender Responsive Budgeting and Planning
PFA	Agricultural Land Policy
PNG	National Gender Policy
PRAAPS	Regional Support Project for Pastoralism in the Sahel
PRODAFF	Ten-Year Plan for the Empowerment of Women, Children and the Family
SCI	Save the Children International
RTS	Flexible hose ramp
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TDR	Terms of reference
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union

1. Introduction

Mali is currently divided into 8 Regions, plus one capital (Bamako). The Regions are in turn subdivided into 49 Cercles and 703 Communes. Mali has enormous potential and abundant resources, but it faces major security, institutional, governance, and economic challenges, which are hampering progress toward peace and sustainable development. Development and security in the country are also threatened by the effects of climate change, including drivers such as rising temperatures and erratic rainfall, resulting in hazards such as prolonged droughts, floods, heat waves, and pests and diseases. This has led to other impacts such as soil erosion, groundwater salinity, crop damage and livestock illnesses etc. These impacts greatly affect vulnerable people which is exacerbated by the limited adaptability of human response to climate change.

Regional and local researchers, as well as the international community, have agreed for more than a decade that the impacts of climate change are affecting the natural resources essential to livelihoods and food security in the Sahel Region, and particularly in Mali, where these problems are exacerbating the risks associated with forced migration and insecurity in the country. While the links between inter-community conflicts over access to and control of natural resources, the rise of violent extremism and the country's governance challenges are complex, the resurgence of conflicts between farmers and pastoralists (and their exploitation by various actors) illustrates the security risks exacerbated by climate change and constitutes one of the country's most pressing challenges¹.

A large proportion of Mali's population (over 80%) works in agriculture and related sectors, and this sector holds great potential for stimulating economic growth and food security. Low productivity with limited farmer access to productive inputs and technologies, underdeveloped agricultural markets and high vulnerability to climate change are some of the main challenges that need to be addressed to build climate-resilient food systems in the country. These challenges are disproportionately distributed between climate-vulnerable farming communities and inland locations, such as the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti, Segou and Koulikoro. Climate variability, extremes and change are already affecting the target regions, reducing agricultural productivity, increasing land degradation, changing traditional transhumance patterns, increasing pressure on fodder resources and escalating biodiversity loss. The impacts of climate change are felt disproportionately by the poor, women, and subsistence farmers.

An innovative project is therefore needed to articulate interventions and catalyze a transformation of smallholder agricultural production in Mali, focusing on the sustainable use of agricultural and agroforestry systems to ensure food and nutritional security and support equitable income increases and adaptive learning for farmers and other value chain actors; while adapting and building resilience to climate change.

This IAAT project aims to achieve these objectives by sustainably increasing the agricultural and agroforestry production of vulnerable households to contribute to food diversification using innovative and climate-resilient techniques and practices; supporting the development of climate-resilient livelihood options and developing adaptive local governance mechanisms; and strengthening the enabling environment for smallholder farmers, as well as public and private agroforestry institutions. To ensure that the IAAT project takes gender more fully into account, a detailed analysis was carried out of gender inequalities in professional fields and in the rural economies of the target regions. The analysis also looked at the division of labour, women's access to and control over resources and benefits, particularly land, women's participation in decision-making and conflict management bodies, their access to formal education, extension and

¹ **Source:** Integrated Environmental Assessment of Mali, Assessment Report, UN Environment Programme, UNDP, December 2022

financial services, as well as the impact of GBV and the COVID pandemic and the presence or absence of male supporters of women. The gender assessment is provided in more detail following the introduction, in summary, the assessment results show that:

- In terms of the status of women, despite the existence of a legal and regulatory arsenal to strengthen the position of women in Malian society, women's representation remains marginal in political and administrative bodies, as well as in rural institutions and decision-making bodies. In 2023, women accounted for 28.5% of members of parliament². Similarly, women farm managers have less access to farmers' organisations: 17% of them belong to a farmers' organisation, compared with 32% of men. The proportion of women among local councilors was 8.3% in the 2009 elections, up 1.9 points in 2004 and 4.3 points on 1999. In 2020 this rate rose sharply to 25.5%. This result was boosted by the provisions of Law No. 2015-052, which requires political parties to include one in three (i.e. one-third) women when registering voters. This provision was complied with, and out of 79,238 candidates, 26,436 were women, i.e. 33.4%³. The Conseil National de la Transition (CNT) has twenty-eight (28) women out of one hundred and forty-seven (147) members, i.e. 28.57%. The current transitional government has only 6 women out of 29 members, i.e. 20.68%. Of the ten - nine - governors, only one is a woman, i.e. 5.26%.
- Women are much more present in child care and household activities and much less present than men in food production and income generation activities, which are mainly reserved for men. Gender analysis also shows that access to and control over resources, benefits and services, participation in decision-making, and how women and men are treated by customary legal mechanisms all depend on gender.
- Women play a vital role in agriculture, environmental management and biodiversity in Mali (particularly agro-biodiversity), as they are primarily responsible for crops that are essential to nutritional security. Socio-cultural factors have generally conditioned the development, use and transfer of the knowledge and skills needed to manage small farms according to gender-related social codes. On these farms, household members have different knowledge and skills. The work and activities carried out by each household member vary according to gender and age. The same applies to roles and responsibilities within each household. These differences between women's and men's spheres of activity and expertise foster the development of distinct but intertwined knowledge, preferences and priorities in the field of agricultural, wildlife and forest biodiversity.
- In the agricultural sector, women are the main operators and processors of staple foods (maize, rice, sorghum, sorrel, monkey bread, shea butter, etc.) and are present throughout the agricultural chain. In addition, women are generally involved in small-scale livestock farming and all fish processing and marketing activities; they are the main collectors, processors and sellers of forest food resources. They also have specialised knowledge of forest plants, which are also used for fodder and traditional medicines. However, women generally lack the means to increase their production and productivity. In particular, they are discriminated against in terms of land management (especially access and control), due to socio-cultural factors which mean that in most communities, a woman cannot inherit land. Only 3.1% of farms in Mali are managed by women (compared with 17% for men), and these tend to be small: 54% have less than one hectare. The average size of women's plots are also much smaller than that of men (0.5 ha compared with 1.5 ha).

² World Bank. 2023. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (%). Available [here](#).

³ **Source:** Election report/synthesis, 2016

- Furthermore, men and women do not have the same opportunities when it comes to supporting production, such as access to finance. Nationally, men have more access to credit than women, and generally borrow larger amounts (e.g. men receive almost 100% of loans over 250,000 FCFA (equivalent to US\$400 in 2023)), as agricultural credit services do not deal directly with women who have no guaranteed source of income. These various discriminatory factors make women and girls particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially as economic migration by men is a frequent adaptation strategy that leaves women who remain behind with the responsibility of maintaining agricultural production.
- SCI Mali, SCUS, and AEDD are aware that :
 - Climate adaptation and mitigation pathways are not gender-neutral
 - Women and girls are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change,
 - Gendered needs and vulnerabilities of marginal groups need to be mainstreamed into adaptation design, resilience capacity-building and mitigation services, and
 - Gender-transformative impact can be driven by allocating robust financial means and dedicated resources to create a more comprehensive and effective approach to addressing climate change in a way that empowers women, promotes gender equality.

1.1 Access to technologies and information: Despite the equity efforts of support partners (national and international NGOs), women have little access to technologies and services. The constraints to this access are: (i) land issues; (ii) methods of accessing land that do not encourage women farmers to invest; (iii) illiteracy among women which limits their access to technologies and services. The literacy rate of women is just 22% compared to 44% for men; (iv) customs and traditions which make them dependent on the men in the family, v) low access to financial resources, and vi) low investment decision-making power in the household. Women have access to the telephone. However, they do not control it. It is the husband who buys the telephone. In the household, it is always the man who controls the device (telephone, TV or radio)⁴. In terms of time availability (daily, monthly, annually), the analysis shows that women invest more time than men, whatever the season. So men are more available than women.

1.2 Involvement in value chains: Gender equality is an essential dimension of inclusive agricultural and economic growth, food and nutrition security and resilient food systems. Women play an important role in agriculture and most value chains. However, their work often remains invisible or insufficiently supported.

Gender inequalities limit women's development and hurt the economic performance of value chains. In Mali, women are present to varying degrees throughout the agricultural value chain and are involved in the processing and marketing of produce. In the agricultural sector, women are present throughout the agricultural chain, but they do not have the necessary means to increase their production and productivity (lack of access to and control and ownership of land and means of production, etc.). They are generally involved in small-scale livestock farming and all the activities associated with processing and marketing agricultural products. Their role as producers in their own right is not always valued or accounted for. Women are mainly involved in growing food crops and market gardening for the family's subsistence. The challenge of food security cannot be met without counting on their contribution to food production or seeking to improve their access to land. So, despite the non-discriminatory legislation, in practice, the influence of men dominates in terms of leadership. Decisions are generally taken by men in public, and women are only consulted when necessary.

⁴ Source: Regional consultations and Albarka Gender Analysis

1.3 Participation in decision-making bodies and conflict prevention/management: In Mali, social norms and the sexual division of labour largely exclude women from areas of public decision-making or conflict resolution, despite Law 052 of December 2015. The NGP-Mali includes gender indicators in its action plan.

COVID - 19 has further weakened the most vulnerable groups, namely women and girls. In particular, those who sold food in markets, near offices and in schools saw their incomes fall and found themselves trapped in their day-to-day activities, in most cases taking no appropriate measures to protect themselves. The configuration of Malian society meant that they were the ones in constant contact with other members of the community, so they ran a greater risk of being contaminated and transmitting the disease to the rest of their family. In times of conflict, the pandemic has only increased the vulnerability of women, who have been deprived of their homes and whose means of subsistence have been undermined, the arrival of a pandemic on the scale of COVID-19 exacerbated their vulnerabilities. Also, with the pandemic, women suffered more gender-based violence due to the general social stress combined with increasing tensions surrounding the fact that the family lived in unusual proximity, in addition to limited access to food and basic supplies.

As far as the level of information was concerned, many people, especially women, knew that there were health arrangements in place, but did not have precise and clear information about containment and health regulations. They were not aware of the care facilities, let alone the care protocol. The telephone and local radio stations were effective means of communication for reaching the most vulnerable women and girls, but e-mail was not within their reach. Several actions were taken, including the involvement of women in community dialogue and the creation of income-generating activities to empower them. A number of measures have been taken, including involving women in community dialogue via social networks and WhatsApp groups (particularly in the Mopti region, with the organisation of E-tontines for women and E-grins for young people to break the chain of contamination) and creating income-generating activities (IGAs) to empower them. As a result, women have been able to assess the scale of COVID-19 and become more resilient to the pandemic.

The scale of gender-based violence (GBV) has been exacerbated by the political, institutional and security crises that began in 2012, the persistence of inter-community conflicts, and the atrocities committed by armed groups and violent extremism. According to the MICS 2015, female genital mutilation is the most widespread form of GBV in Mali (83% of women aged between 15 and 49) and 48.8% of girls were married before the age of 18. GBVIMS recorded 4,617 incidents in 2019, 4,411 incidents were recorded from January to September 2020. These figures only partially reflect the real situation of GBV in the country, given the weakness of the judicial system and impunity. Women have very little access to legal services (4%), unlike men (9%), and family pressure often prevents them from speaking out about the violence they have suffered. A draft special law drawn up and validated in 2017 by a national multi-sectoral and multi-party committee under the leadership of the MPFEF is still in the process of being adopted internally at the executive level. According to the Regional Directorates for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family, 126 cases of GBV were recorded in Ségou in 2022, 3,419 cases in Koulikoro, including Dioila and Nara, and 88 cases in Timbuktu during the same period.

Concerning the involvement of women in conflict resolution, conflict prevention and resolution issues in Mali remain under the almost exclusive management of men in the communities and are therefore highly discriminatory for women, even beyond any religious or cultural considerations, even though they have proven potential and capabilities in conflict resolution and prevention and more generally in peace-building. Since 2012, women have accounted for

less than 10% of peace negotiators, and this figure has hardly changed since the adoption of resolution 1325 in 2000. The government has shown the political will to take account of the gender dimension in conflict prevention and management, for example through the provisions of the national strategy for reconciliation and social cohesion and its 2022-2026 action plan (priority 1: Promote peace, national reconciliation and social cohesion, sub-priority 1.2: Strengthen the participation of women and young people in the peace process).

Although there is a clear political will to take the gender dimension into account in the reconciliation and social cohesion process at the national (MARN), regional (ERAR) and local (CCR, COFO, CCS) level, it is clear that women are poorly or not at all represented in conflict prevention and management bodies. Through participatory approaches that value women's contribution, the IAAT project will encourage a change in behaviour towards a culture of inclusiveness in formal and informal conflict resolution and prevention mechanisms at local level, as well as improving women's access to sustainable and resilient economic empowerment opportunities. In addition to the contestation of local leaders, opinion leaders and religious leaders, the exclusion and discrimination of women and ignorance of their role in revitalising conflict management mechanisms exacerbate women's vulnerability. This programme presents an opportunity to reverse this trend by relying on women who have proven skills in social mediation and by strengthening their role in family and community units on issues of social cohesion and conflict management. Past experience, particularly with peace huts in Mali, has shown that if women are mobilised and involved, this can have a positive impact on conflict prevention and resolution at community level, especially as they themselves can play an active role in triggering these conflicts. The translation of Law 052 of December 2015 and its dissemination in the IAAT project areas should also be considered.

- 1.4 Displaced people:** With the security situation, women and girls are becoming increasingly vulnerable. Many women have become heads of household (the men have either been killed, abducted or fled) and are left to fend for themselves, mainly in the Mopti and Tombouctou regions. The displaced are scattered in camps, in families and houses under construction. At the national level, for example, there are 412,387 displaced returnees and 120,298 internally displaced persons, of whom 224,124 are women, i.e. 54.34% are women⁵.
- 1.5 Associations:** The Regional Directorates for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family in the gender analysis regions listed 102 associations/groupings in Ségou, 255 in Koulikoro, 251 associations in Mopti, 1,700 in Gao and 455 in Timbuktu. Many women's associations are also involved in village saving and lending groups (VSLAs) and producer groups. Despite the lack of material and financial resources, these associations can mobilize women and raise their awareness of climate change. The leaders of some associations are resource persons, leaders who can be put to good use in promoting women in value chains, climate security and the sustainable management of natural resources. They are also involved in self-help and support for women, socio-economic development and the fight against poverty. To this end, an organisational audit of these groups and associations is more than necessary.
- 1.6 Women's allies and supporters:** The coordination of neighborhood and village chiefs, the High Islamic Council, the Catholic and Protestant churches, youth leaders and traditional communicators all support gender inclusion/gender equity and equality. The IAAT project will have to consider each category of actor as a strategic ally and supporter of women and young people in the development of CACs and community action plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation. To do this, each of these actors will have to benefit from a reinforcement and support programme based on the needs identified above, so that they are in a position to fully

⁵ Source: DNDS, Population Monitoring Matrix Report (DTM)_ April 2022

play their roles as allies and supporters. Women face a number of constraints identified by the analysis that merit particular attention in the implementation of the IAAT project.

1.7 Project goal and objectives

This proposed IAAT project will support climate-vulnerable smallholder agricultural production systems and rural livelihoods in Mali to increase climate resilience and low-emission development pathways. The project has four components: 1) increase adoption of improved and climate-smart agroforestry and agricultural technologies, practices, and services, 2) increase connectivity of smallholders, women and youth to the agriculture input and output markets, 3) reduce GHG emissions through the promotion of agroforestry, use of solar pump irrigation, and manure management through biogas plants, 4) strengthen institutional and stakeholders' capacities for scaling-up improved and climate-smart agroforestry and agriculture.

The project's paradigm shift goal is: **IF** smallholder farmers in highly vulnerable regions in Mali can access and adopt climate resilient technologies, knowledge, and low carbon agricultural practices, **THEN** their food, nutrition and water security will be improved **BECAUSE** their adaptative and mitigation capacities including improved technical skills, access to finance, markets and sustainable livelihoods, and that of public and private institutions, will be strengthened to respond to and reduce the climate change risk and impacts. The project will drive immediate and medium-term impacts through farm and community-level actions that improve localized climate-resilient agricultural yields; reduce the time, energy, and labor effort by food producers, especially women, on farming activities; increase women's access to and control of agricultural inputs; and increase incomes. Long-term impacts will be achieved by increasing the climate resilience of farming systems, applying land use management, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Other long-term impacts will include enhanced access to climate-smart technologies to reduce climate-compromised (drought, heat seasonality, and flood-impacted) yield gaps, improve access to resources and support for women farmers to raise yields and improve food security, and reduce emissions through improved livestock and fodder production and reduced fertilizer use.

The proposed project will be implemented in five climate-vulnerable regions of Mali selected based on the climate risk assessment and stakeholder consultations. These regions include from north to south: Tombouctou, Gao, Mopti, Koulikoro, and Segou. In Tombouctou, Gao and Mopti, the project will build on the work of Albarka's Resilience Food Security Activity (Albarka funded by USAID). The Albarka will co-finance to implement some climate action and capacity-building activities of this GCF project in the regions. This project will focus on the 12 circles and within them 48 communes, in the Tombouctou, Gao, Mopti, Koulikoro and Segou regions in Mali based on their increased climate vulnerability. Within these regions, circles, and communes, beneficiaries will include smallholder farmers and their households, women and youth entrepreneurs, private sector businesses, extension services members, and members of public institutions. The Agency of Environmental and Sustainable Development (AEDD in French acronym) under the Ministry of Environment and Sanitation will serve as the Implementing Entity and Save the Children Mali (SCI Mali) will serve as the Executing Entity.

This annex outlines the gender assessment and action plan of the IAAT. The assessment presents how the project resources will be mobilized and utilized to tackle the persisting gender barriers, and biases, and contribute towards improved gender equality.

Table 1: IAAT components, outputs and activities

Component	Output	Activity
Component 1: Extension Services and On-Farm CSA Adoption	1.1: Improved technical capacities and inclusivity of extension services in climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry production	Activity 1.1.1 Build technical capacity and reach of extension services on CSA and agroforestry techniques
	1.2: Increased use of climate resilient practices in the production of CSA crops, livestock and agroforestry by smallholder farmers	Activity 1.2.1 Build awareness, capacity, community interest and field-level adoption of CSA techniques and agroforestry amongst smallholder farmer communities (crop and/or livestock)
	1.3: Increased land area under agroforestry	Activity 1.3.1 Develop land-use mapping at the regional level
		Activity 1.3.2 Plant agroforestry trees on community and state-owned lands
Component 2: CSA and Agroforestry Value Chains	2.1: CSA and agroforestry VCs are more connected and reach more smallholder farmers	Activity 2.1.1 Support the creation of inclusive private sector value chains for key CSA/agroforestry crops and technologies
	2.2: Smallholder farmers, especially youth and women, can more easily overcome barriers to entrepreneurship in CSA and agribusiness	Activity 2.2.1 Support local financial institutions to increase access to finance for smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, for CSA/agroforestry investments
		Activity 2.2.2 Enhance capabilities and connectivity of youth and women CSA/agribusiness entrepreneurs
	2.3 Increased adoption of climate-smart agriculture technologies by smallholder farmers	Activity 2.3.1 Install and support the productive use of biodigester systems and solar irrigation systems amongst smallholder farmers
Component 3: Increasing Institutional Capacity and Knowledge	3.1: Increased institutional capacity in climate change adaptation and mitigation planning and best practices to address agriculture-related climate risks	Activity 3.1.1 Strengthen institutional capacity in localized climate change adaptation and mitigation planning
		3.1.2 Technical capacity building of Mali Climate Fund in prioritizing

		and targeting investment in CSA and agroforestry
	3.2: Enhanced Knowledge sharing and coordination of best practices in CSA and agroforestry across stakeholders	Activity 3.2.1 Enhanced convening and contribution to national databases for CSA and Agroforestry

2. Methodological approach

Our methodological approach was participatory at all stages, involving all stakeholders and in particular the SCI Mali team leading the assignment. There were six (6) main phases in the implementation of the evaluation mission. These were briefly as follows (i) scoping meeting; (ii) document review; (iii) production of data collection tools; (iv) data collection and analysis; (v) production and submission of the gender report and action plan.

2.1 Assessment steps:

Stage 1: Scoping the study: a scoping meeting was held with the SCI Mali team responsible for technical supervision and validation of the methodology and data collection tools. This meeting was an important step, in that it enabled us firstly to gain a better understanding of SCI Mali's expectations and also to gather additional specific objectives not covered in the terms of reference. It also provided an ideal framework for: (i) introducing ourselves to the rest of the team; (ii) harmonising our understanding of the objectives and expectations of the study in order to adopt a consensual work programme for conducting the survey; (iii) gathering information and specific recommendations on how to conduct the assignment; (iv) providing us with all the documents and tools we needed to carry out the documentary review and conduct the assignment.

Stage 2: Literature review : Another key stage in our approach was the literature review, which will continue until gender is effectively integrated into the project document. Without being exhaustive, this stage covered all the national and international documents relevant to the issue in question. These documents include national policies and documents on national standards, reports on similar studies, the project document and all other documentation. Documents were also collected from other structures (technical services, AEDD) and other relevant organisations. The reports available and the factual information provided by the project's stakeholders were analysed, bearing in mind that the primary source of documentation is SCI Mali. Internet documentation, which has already begun, is underway. Finally, this stage was completed by interviews with the SCI Mali staff in charge of the gender evaluation to ensure that SCI Mali's expectations were taken into account.

Stage 3: Determination of data collection targets and development of the methodological guide for the work (including the guides for collecting data broken down by sex): For the actual data collection, it was decided to supplement the secondary data with data collected at regional consultations and from identified key informants. Secondly, sex-disaggregated data collection questionnaires were drawn up.

Stage 4: Meetings held in Bamako, Koulikoro, Ségou, Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu: Meetings were held in these regions in the form of national and regional consultations, and the information gathered forms an integral part of this report. Additional information was gathered through interviews with key informants. These guides were used to gather information and

identify gender inequalities in the Mopti region in terms of the roles and responsibilities of men and women, and access to and control over resources and benefits.

These guides helped us to gain information on the division of labour, access to and control of natural resources and benefits in terms of: Who does, what, how, where, why, for whom, with whom? who has access? who controls. Who decides how natural resources are used. They (the guides) will also enable us to know: (i) Who has access to information related to NR, agriculture, climate change, agroforestry; (iii) What are the constraints to the participation/emergence of women and young people in the value chain; (iv) What **is the legal status of women**; What are the conditions that must be met for women and young people to **perform optimally** in value chains; (v) What are the **challenges that** men and women may face in order to derive **optimum benefit** from the value chain? (vi) **Where** are the men, women and young people among producers, retailers, wholesalers and processors? (vii) **Who controls** the marketing channels? (viii) Who has access to equipment and infrastructure for post-harvest management, processing, etc.? (ix) **Who controls** the means of production, equipment and infrastructure? (x) How are men, women and young people positioned among aggregators?

Stage 5. Methodology and data collection tools

Target audience and geographical coverage as proposed in the terms of reference, the analysis was carried out in Bamako and the regions of Koulikoro, Ségou, Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu. The study involved the national and regional directorates for: Development Planning; Promotion of Women, Children and the Family; Water and Forests; Livestock; Agriculture; Fisheries; Meteorology; the Rural Economy Institute; the National Agency for the Great Green Wall; l'Assemblée Permanente des Chambres d'Agriculture du Mali ; Point Focal Opérationnel du Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial (GEF); le Point focal du Fonds Vert pour le Climat au Mali; les femmes leaders transformatrices des régions de Koulikoro, Ségou, Mopti, Gao et Tombouctou. In Bamako, the AEDD and its **gender unit**. Both women and men representatives from these organizations were included. The information collection also included members of village saving and loan associations and women representatives from NGOs, and the private sector.

Step 6. Study methods and data collection

We opted for one-to-one interviews with key informants and the search for additional information at regional consultations.

3. Description of the reference situation

3.1. Gender issues and inequalities in Mali

Mali has a long and rich history of successive kingdoms and empires, which have exerted a strong influence in West Africa, and the country is known for its cultural diversity and its more than twenty main ethnic groups, which are traditionally characterised by strong social, gerontocratic and patriarchal hierarchies, with a few exceptions in the north. The main religions practiced in Mali are Islam (92.5%), Christianity (3.2%) and Animism (4.3%). Customary and traditional rights and the Muslim religion have a major influence on the exercise of human rights, in particular the misinterpretation of messages that prevent women from fully enjoying their rights. As a result, the legal status of women in Mali is characterised by the coexistence of modern and customary laws or rules, which are much more conservative in terms of the roles, responsibilities and power relationships between men and women. Table 2 provides some country-level indicators about gender.

Table 2. Some of the country's indicators

Designations/indicators	Rate for men	Rate for women	Global
Maternal mortality rate		13,7% ⁶	
The infant and child mortality rate ⁷	10,5%	9,7%	
The educational status of girls and boys			
Gross enrolment rate in the first cycle of basic education ⁸	78,3%	66,0%	
Gross enrolment rate in upper basic education ⁹ (%)	55,6%	46,8%	
The adult literacy rate in urban areas ¹⁰	71 %	52 %	
The adult literacy rate in rural areas	38 %	19 %	
The poverty line rate ¹¹			42,1%
Population living in extreme multidimensional poverty			44,7%
Population vulnerable to multidimensional poverty			15,3%
Labour force participation rate (participation rate) ¹²	80,6%	61,2%	
The employment rate ¹³	90 %	55 %	
The unemployment rate	4,3%	4,0%	
Political participation rates			
Parliamentary representation rate ¹⁴	72,7%	27,3%	
Rates of representation on communal councils ¹⁵	62, 2%	33,8%)	
Life expectancy in the country of intervention and/or the area where the project/programme is based ¹⁶	57.6 years old	60.3 years old	

Under Malian customary law, women are excluded from access to land ownership, even though they play a major role in land use. In the increasingly widespread land disputes, women are the main victims, with consequences for family food security. The Agricultural Policy Law of August 2006 provides for the protection of women following extensive consultations in which they took

⁶ INSTAT REPORT 2020 MALI IN FIGURES 2013 - 2017

⁷ REPORT Demographic and Health Survey 2018

⁸ INSTAT REPORT 2020 MALI IN FIGURES 2013 - 2017

⁹ INSTAT REPORT 2020 MALI IN FIGURES 2013 - 2017

¹⁰ REPORT Demographic and Health Survey EDSM-VI 20119

¹¹ UNDP IDH 2021 REPORT

¹² IDH-MALI 2020 REPORT

¹³ REPORT Enquête Démographique et de Santé EDSM-VI 20119 : ceux qui ont déclaré qu'ils travaillaient au cours des 7 jours avant l'enquête

¹⁴ UNDP IDH 2021 REPORT

¹⁵ UN-WOMEN <https://africa.unwomen.org/fr/gouvernance-et-participation-des-femmes>

¹⁶ UNDP IDH 2021 REPORT

part, but it has yet to be applied, even though power is still largely vested in men¹⁷. According to the World Bank¹⁸, only 5% of Malian women own land. Mali is one of the countries with low human development, with an HDI of 0.434 in 2019. This value places Mali 184^{ème} out of 189 countries and territories ranked¹⁹.

- **Gender Development Index (GDI)**²⁰ : The GDI measures gender inequalities in three fundamental dimensions of human development: health (measured by the life expectancy of women and men at birth), education (measured by the expected length of schooling for boys and girls and the average number of years of study for adults aged 25 and over) and control over economic resources. The HDI is calculated for 167 countries. In 2019, Mali's HDI is 0.388 for women, compared with 0.473 for men, giving a GDI of 0.821 and placing the country in group 5. By comparison, Burkina Faso and Niger have an HDI of 0.867 and 0.724 respectively.²¹
- **Multidimensional poverty index (MPI)**: The multidimensional poverty index determines the deprivations faced by people in the areas of education, health and standard of living. It provides the incidence of non-monetary multidimensional poverty, i.e. the number of people living in multidimensional poverty and the intensity of this poverty (relative number of deprivations suffered simultaneously by these people). The MPI, i.e. the proportion of the population living in multidimensional poverty, adjusted for the intensity of deprivation, is 0.376. Burkina Faso and Niger have MPIs of 0.519 and 0.590 respectively²².
- **Gender Inequality Index (GII)**²³ : This measures inequalities in the achievements of men and women in three dimensions : reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. The GII should enable analysis of policies and efforts. A high value indicates strong inequality between men and women. Mali's GII of 0.671 places it 158th out of 162 countries in the 2019 index. In Mali, 9.5% of parliamentary seats are held by women and 7.3% of adult women have completed secondary education, compared with 16.4% of men. Out of every 100,000 live births, 562 women die from pregnancy-related causes, and the adolescent fertility rate is 169.1 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19. The activity rate for women is 61.2%, compared with 80.6% for men.

3.2. National, regional and international policies on gender equality and the environment, particularly in areas relating to women's rights, land rights, climate change, forest resources and agriculture.

- At the national level, the preamble to the Malian Constitution of 25 February 1992 affirms the sovereign people's subscription to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948 and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The principle of the primacy of universal rights over national laws is affirmed in the Constitution. Thus, it guarantees the same rights to citizens of both sexes without discrimination and proclaims in its preamble the defence of the rights of women and children as well as the cultural and linguistic diversity of the national community.

¹⁷ **Source:** Joint women's empowerment programme, United Nations agencies and MINUSMA, December 2021.

¹⁸ **Source:** Gender Report, Kayes and Sikasso, ACF, 2022

¹⁹ **Source:** HDI Report, Mali 2021

²⁰ **Source:** HDI Report, Mali 2021

²¹ **Source:** HDI Report, 2021

²² **Source:** HDI Report, 2021

²³ **Source:** HDI Report, 2021

- **The National Gender Policy:** The National Gender Policy, with its six (6) Strategic Orientations and nineteen (19) Strategic Axes, is based on a set of legal, political, socio-economic and socio-cultural foundations. Mali's National Gender Policy is based on respect for universal rights while combining the values associated with a tolerant society that is open to the world and keen to bring about a favourable change in traditions and mentalities towards greater justice, equity and equality.
- In addition, Mali has ratified, often without reservation, a number of regional and international conventions and treaties relating to the protection and promotion of women's rights, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women since September 1985, and ratified the Additional Protocol to the said Convention in September 2000 and its Additional Protocol, as well as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).
- On 25 September 2015, governments adopted a new international development agenda, comprising a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the aim of eradicating poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all by 2030. Goal 5 of this agenda is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and Goal 2 is to eradicate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Concrete actions have been identified as critical conditions for achieving the MDGs, including: (i) undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control of land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources in accordance with domestic law ; (ii) strengthen the use of key technologies, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women; (iii) adopt and strengthen appropriate policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.
- **Mali also has a new reference framework for formulating, implementing and monitoring the various programmes, policies and strategies that the country has developed in recent times, at both national and sectoral levels.** This 2^{ème} generation covers the period 2019 - 2023. Its objective is to make it possible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, building on the country's potential and resilience to promote inclusive development to reduce poverty and inequality in a peaceful and united Mali. The new Government Action Programme for the transition period was adopted on Monday 02 July 2021. All public policies will have to integrate gender, employment and climate change into the development and monitoring-evaluation of public policies.
- At sector level, a national strategy to combat gender-based violence (GBV) was drawn up in 2018. In addition, Law No. 2015-052 was adopted in 2015 to promote gender equality in elective and nominative public posts. This law increased the percentage of women in appointed positions from 10.4% in 2014 to 15.73% in 2017²⁴ . However, the minimum representation of 30% provided for by this law has not yet been achieved.

3.3 The legal framework

The legislative framework for environmental protection is marked by important international and national provisions. Mali has ratified the conventions of the Rio de Janeiro generation (UNFCCC, CBD, CCD), other earlier conventions (Ramsar Convention, CITES) and is a party to numerous international and sub-regional agreements relating to the management of forest ecosystems. At the continental level, Mali has taken part in major initiatives such as the Great Green Wall project, the development of the NEPAD Environment Initiative, the Poverty-Environment Initiative, the Global Climate Change Alliance and the development of a common vision on the fight against climate change under the aegis of the Conference of African Ministers of the Environment (CAME).

Law no. 95-50 of 16/10/96 on the principle of establishing and managing the domain of local authorities identifies the conditions under which these authorities may appropriate and manage parts of the national land domain, and sets out their responsibilities and rights in this area. This law governs the creation and management of local authority land, namely forest land, agricultural land, pastoral land, wildlife land, fish farming land, mining land and housing land.

Civil society is also represented in consultation frameworks and decision-making bodies. SECO/NGO is the environmental leader for national NGOs and CAFO is the environmental leader for women's organisations and associations. These two organisations have participated in all the activities of the CIGQE Advisory Committee. This active participation by Malian civil society is also in line with the conclusions of the Rio Conference and Agenda 21.

The main legislative and regulatory texts relating to forests and wildlife are 6 Laws, 18 Decrees and 6 Orders. The six (6) laws are :

- **Forestry**

- Law no. 95-003 of 18 January 1995 on the organisation of timber exploitation, transport and trade
- Law No. 95-004 of 18 January 1995 laying down the conditions for the management of forest resources
- Law N°10-028 of 12 July 2010 determining the principles of management of the resources of the national forest estate.

- **With regard to wildlife**

- Law No. 18-036 of 27 June 2018, setting the conditions for the management of wild fauna and its habitat

- **Institutional framework**

At institutional level, the Ministry of the Environment has set up six central departments:

- Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts ;
- Direction Nationale de l'Assainissement, des Pollutions et des Nuisances ;
- Environment and Sustainable Development Agency ;
- Niger River Basin Agency ;
- Agence Nationale de Gestion des Stations d'Épuration du Mali.

In addition to these legal and institutional frameworks, there are :

The National Policy on Climate Change (PNCC) has three objectives:

- Promotion of actions to adapt to the impacts of climate change (OPN2).
- Promotion, extension and transfer of appropriate technologies as developed by research (OPN5).
- Capacity building on climate change (OPN6).
- The National Environmental Protection Policy (PNPE) was adopted in 1998 and revised in 2018. This policy ensures the protection of natural resources including water, forest and land.

In most of the policies developed over the last ten years, the principles of equity and/or equality are announced. In strategies and/or programs, gender is specifically or indirectly integrated through the targeting of women, young people or mixed, marginalized, and vulnerable groups.

The Fonds d'Appui à l'Autonomisation de la Femme et à l'Épanouissement de l'Enfant (FAFE) is a fund initiated by UN Women as part of the implementation of the NGP in support of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family. It is aimed at financing initiatives to develop women's entrepreneurship in Mali. **Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB)** is now an integral part of Mali's budget planning system, making it possible to take gender-specific concerns into account in various development sectors with a view to creating opportunities in the fight against women's poverty. In 2011, Mali adopted its National Gender-Sensitive Planning and Budgeting Strategy (PBSG), which is part of the implementation of strategic guideline No. 6 of the National Gender Policy on good governance in public policies and reforms in the context of decentralisation and deconcentration.

4. Results of the gender assessment

The consultations conducted at the national and sub-national level were essential for the design of the project in a way that is responsive to the needs of women as the target populations, and to identify the key climatic and non-climatic challenges and vulnerabilities faced by women in the target areas. The present assessment includes information collected from all the consulted stakeholders on key gender aspects, including:

- Gender and social norms and division of labour
- Access to assets, material and immaterial resources
- Decision making power at household and community level
- Impact of climate change, particularly drought, on the pre-existing gender inequalities
- Coping strategies are currently in place affecting women and girls to overcome climate change impacts
- Existing awareness, understanding and adoption of gender mainstreaming for social protection and climate change adaptation activities.

4.1. Division of labour between men and women and decision-making models

The roles and responsibilities of men and women are specific to each culture. They can also vary from one community to another. In the targeted regions, the results show that both women and men, as well as girls and boys, may engage in activities, but most of the time their responsibilities are different. The domestic production process obeys the rules of land sharing and the division of tasks and working time for each member according to age and gender. In terms of the social division of labour, men and women both carry out agricultural work, but household chores remain the role of women.

The social or sexual division of labour also obliges women to take care of housework, the education and health of their children, the daily chore of supplying drinking water and firewood, the upkeep of the farmyard and small livestock, the sale of foodstuffs and other basic necessities, and so on. All the labour and resources available to the extended family are mobilised to cultivate the common or family field. From the point of view of the organisation of work in the Koulikoro, Ségou, Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao regions, a large part of the week (generally five or six days; Christians do not go to the fields on Sundays and Muslims on Fridays, but family members also do not go to work in the fields on fair days) is reserved for work on the collective field. The rest of the time is reserved for rest and work in the individual fields, especially for the women, on the plots of land granted to them by the male heads of household. The produce from the family fields is used to feed the family, pay each man's first marriage expenses, buy collective equipment and solve other

collective problems. This agricultural economy, which is not very mechanised, requires a lot of humanpower.

Women are also involved in the agricultural value chain and participate in the processing and marketing of the products produced. However, they are not paid, nor do they control the income from this production. In addition to primary care and household tasks, women, with the help of their daughters, also take part in income-generating activities, enabling them to generate their own income, which they manage and control, even if they have to inform the men²⁵. Men are involved in agricultural production upstream. Men are only involved in food production and income generating tasks and control all income linked to agricultural production. The movement of men in connection with transhumance creates additional constraints for women, such as economic restrictions, fewer meals and a double workload.

The assessment also revealed that in the target regions, the social division of labour results in an arbitrary division of agricultural activities between men and women. This division is often based on traditions and customs. It should be noted, however, that it is increasingly common to see men collecting water and firewood, where the increase in insecurity has led to these changes aimed at protecting women and girls from sexual violence. The gendered division of labour does not exclude women and girls from taking part in agricultural, livestock and income-generating activities. Women's entrepreneurship is encouraged by their husbands.

- **Land:** Women and men, girls and boys plant the seed; after the fields have been prepared, the men and boys are responsible for weeding. At harvest time, everyone is involved, but at different levels. The men and young men cut the millet, rice and sorghum with knives, while the women and girls, young men and boys pack and sack the produce. Women and girls, sometimes helped by men and boys, transport the produce home in carts. They do this for their families. An analysis of agricultural production shows that:
 - **In Mopti,** women are much more involved in the production of groundnuts, cowpeas, millet and rice, while men produce rice (especially in flooded areas), millet and sorghum. Pottery is an activity reserved exclusively for women, who use the earth as a resource.
 - **In Koulikoro:** women produce groundnuts, sesame and red "da" (hibiscus)
 - **In Ségou:** women produce groundnuts, da, okra, red da, sesame, especially in Bla, and calabash.
 - **In Gao:** women are heavily involved in rice production
 - **In Timbuktu:** women are involved in rice production and increasingly in leguminous crops and some fruit trees.
- **Pasture / livestock:** in the traditional environment of all the regions analysed, livestock farming is mainly extensive. Men rear cattle for the needs of their families. They also fatten cattle for the Ramadan festivities, either individually or as part of a family cooperative, in stalls or on pasture. The men market the live animals locally, to private individuals and to wholesalers, some of whom come from outside the area. As for the women, they rear small ruminants (goat and sheep), but are increasingly improving their family or bush rearing (fattening), as well as rearing their own poultry. The by-products of this farming belong to women, but they inform their husbands before using them, and the same applies to organic manure. They are also much more involved in harvesting at this level. With the support of certain partners, such as PRAAPS, women are increasingly involved in cattle fattening. Traditionally, cattle pens are the property of the whole family, and roles are shared between men and women. Generally, the man is responsible for grazing and transhumance. The woman is responsible for the whole process of milking and its management. The young

²⁵ **Source:** Gender analysis report Albarka Programme zones

men raise pigeons, quail and some poultry for themselves. The young boys act as shepherds for their families or for other families in return for wages in-kind or in cash. The men are responsible for veterinary care of all livestock.

- **Water points / reservoirs / Fishing:** women use water points and reservoirs for household consumption including drinking and sanitation,. In many locations, men are involved in fisheries where enough water is available. Some women also farm fish in their farm ponds, often with the support of projects. The women and girls are productively engaged in the processing and marketing of fish.
 - **Market gardening:** Women and girls, men and boys take part in market gardening. It's worth noting that there are more women than men, and that young girls in particular and young boys help their mothers on the market-gardening sites. Marketing is carried out by the women with the help of their daughters. Given the level of illiteracy among the women, the men in these women's groups often act as administrative secretaries (keeping administrative documents). In general, the women are supported by certain development partners such as the WFP, FAO, UN Women and CAEB in various ways, such as obtaining land-security deeds from customary/land-owning chiefs, elected representatives and the administration; developing sites; installing drainage systems; and, in some cases, providing technical assistance; installation of drainage and solar systems, small farm equipment such as wheelbarrows, picks, watering cans, shovels, inputs (improved seeds); capacity building/training in cultivation techniques and intermediation with input suppliers and potential buyers. Market gardening is one of the interventions in the Albarka regions, where the project promotes vegetable gardening as a part of income-generating activity.
 - **Forests:** women and girls are involved in collecting firewood for household consumption all year round. They sell surplus firewood in the local markets to generate some income for the household. With increasing insecurity due to conflict, men are getting involved in collecting firewood in Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu and parts of Ségou and Koulikoro. Women also source shea butter and néré in Mopti; shea butter, néré and Zaban in Ségou and Koulikoro; leaves such as Fakouhoye, jujube, doumia fruit and water lilies in Timbuktu; henna in Banamba and Koulikoro; and wild dates, jujube and doum in Gao, for sale in raw or processed form.
- Indigenous Populations and Peoples (IPP)" level²⁶** : land management methods, for example, are heavily based on customary norms and women are absent. Also, the political reforms undertaken at national level since the advent of democracy in 1992 have had major repercussions on certain traditional chieftaincies, which totally exclude women, even though older women are consulted. The inheritance of traditional chieftaincy, in the event of the death of the legitimised chief, passed, in the absence of consensus, by electoral means under the supervision of the State delegate, does not make room for women. Indigenous peoples and commodity chains. The division of labour is as follows:
- **Men:** the honey industry, agricultural/range production, cattle and sheep fattening (food, animal care), bourgou production in Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao: fattening industry, beekeeping (sale of honey), market gardening (production and sale of produce). In Timbuktu, bourgou is increasingly exported to Algeria and Mauritania.
 - **Women:** market gardening (production and sale of produce), sheep/goat and poultry fattening (feeding and watering);
 - **Young boys:** honey (production), market gardening (labour), fattening (grazing animals, watering); poultry (pigeons);

²⁶ **Source:** Rapport de mission sur les peuples autochtones et communautés locales dans le cadre de la formulation du "Projet PNUD-GEF ID 10687 - Sécurité climatique et gestion durable des ressources naturelles dans les régions centrales du Mali pour la consolidation de la paix" (Project Preparation Grant (PPG)), Dr ONGOIBA Salomon, PhD June 2021

- **Young girls:** helping the family in the market gardening and fattening sectors.

IAAT will engage with local men, women and youth based on their current involvement in the value chain and use their knowledge and experience to expand the value chains.

4.2. Access to and control of resources

Men and women, girls and young people can access and use all resources, but only with the agreement and/or permission of the heads of household. Women in particular, through their groups, can easily obtain plots of land for their market gardening activities, with the contribution of elected representatives, village chiefs/customary chiefs/counsellors and land chiefs, and the support of certain development partners.

Control of the land : is often subject to certain social constraints. It is the responsibility of heads of families, chiefs or landowners. Women have only indirect access to land. They generally benefit from plots of land acquired through a third party (usually a man: husband, head of lineage, other relative with the spouse's agreement, etc.) for their production, but have no control over the resource. Discrimination against women in terms of land management is linked more to socio-cultural constraints, which mean that in most communities, women cannot inherit land. They generally only have precarious access to land that is usually marginal.

Control of grazing: In Mopti, for example, in the flood zone, the management of the bourgoutières²⁷ is the responsibility of the djoros²⁸, who decide/determine the order of passage of the animals for grazing. It should be noted that their animals are the first to go out to graze. The sale of household animals is generally the responsibility of the men. When it comes to selling their own livestock, women consult their husbands first. When it comes to marketing or selling, women entrust their animals to the men in the family. This is because women do not go to livestock markets to sell their animals. It should be noted that the emergence of armed groups has led to the emergence of new actors who have taken the place of the Djoros, thereby reducing their level of control over bourgoutier resources. These new actors are the armed groups, who are increasingly managing the bourgoutières, claiming that they belong to God, allocating them to whomever they please and levying tithes²⁹ and zakat³⁰ on their use³¹.

Forests : are controlled by the management committees, village chiefs/councillors and landowners. As for the women, they have control over harvested products such as gum arabic, néré, shea, zaban, certain leaves, and acacia albida pods, which are very profitable to sell and earn income from, with the advice of the men or after consulting them. But the production of these pods is still insufficient to build a value chain. In the agro-pastoral regions covered by the gender assessment, the exploitation of natural resources is generally considered to be abusive by some and even anarchic by others. These resources are exploited in part by the community (management committees and heads of families) for production purposes in agriculture, animal husbandry, handicrafts and traditional medicine, and play a particularly important role in satisfying their daily food, energy and medical needs, and more specifically by the women and young people

²⁷ Bourgoutières is a type of fodder critical to the livestock production system in northern Mali.

²⁸ Djoros is a land owner or manager

²⁹ Tithes is a system of giving one-tenth of a person's income or production for the name of God to be used for designated purposes.

³⁰ Zakat is an Islamic finance term referring to the obligation that an individual has to donate a certain proportion of wealth each year to charitable causes

³¹ **Source:** Report, Gender: of the "UNDP-GEF Project ID 10687 - Climate security and sustainable management of natural resources in the central regions of Mali for the consolidation of peace" (Project Preparation Grant (PPG)).

who supply the families with firewood and other forest products. Thanks to forest by-products, based on herbs and leaves, women also carry out income-generating activities (IGAs).

The water reservoirs/water are managed by the water masters, who are the bozos, and the ponds by the villagers.

Facilities: In rural areas, less than 20% of women have access to equipment. According to the report National Gender Profile of the Agriculture and Rural Development Sectors - Mali, access to equipment has a considerable impact on productivity and agricultural production. Given the relatively high cost of access, equipment is generally the property of the farm. Women's low incomes and limited access to agricultural credit mean that fewer of them own agricultural equipment and therefore have limited access to it. Of the women farmers who own equipment, 43% have ploughs, 35% donkey hoes and 10% carts. The other types of equipment are owned exclusively by men. Whatever the type of equipment, women's farms are always under-equipped compared with men's farms. The equipment on women's farms consists mainly of ploughs. Women's lack of equipment is a significant factor in their productivity. On the farm, they can only have access to the equipment when work has been completed on the other plots, which often leads to delays in the cropping calendar.

4.3. Access to and control of profits

In terms of access to and control over benefits, the analysis reveals that only men have access to benefits and income and decide who can have access to them. Women have control over their own income (market gardening, fattening, processing of harvested produce), but they have to inform their husbands beforehand. The use of resources is decided by the heads of household according to the results of the assessment.

4.4. Access to information, services and technologies related to natural resource management

In the villages, it is usually the village chief who is the first to be informed, then he informs the heads of the families, who in turn inform the members of their families, including the women. Information is also shared through town criers³². Men are also informed through village meetings, national and local radio stations, awareness-raising missions and cooperatives. Technical services (water and forestry, animal husbandry), talks in grins³³ and "word of mouth" are also sources of information for men. Some women get information related to natural resource management from radio stations (in rural household that possess radios) and meetings. In the commune administrative centres, men, women, girls and boys have access to information via meetings, radio, television, traditional communicators, posters in town halls or decentralised technical departments, social networks (WhatsApp groups) and sometimes training courses. In the livestock sector, the head of the family is informed by the shepherd in the event of illness and by the veterinary service for vaccinations.

The access to technologies and services helps both men and women to improve farming methods and techniques, increase productivity and incomes, improve living standards and raise the social and educational standards of rural life. Despite the equity efforts of support by partners (national and international NGOs), women have little access to technologies and services. The key constraints for women are: (i) land tenure issues; (ii) modes of access to land that do not encourage women farmers to invest; (iii) illiteracy among women, which limits their access to technologies and services; (iv) low access to financial resources, and (v) customs and traditions

³² Persons employed to make public announcement in the small village towns.

³³ A type of non-verbal communication

that make them dependent on the men in the family. Women have very limited access to credit, especially in agriculture and the major obstacle is their inability to offer collateral³⁴.

Women have access to the telephone. However, they do not control it. It is the husband who buys the telephone. In the household, it is always the man who controls the device (telephone, TV or radio)³⁵. In terms of time availability (daily, monthly, annually), the analysis shows that women invest more time than men, whatever the season. So men are more available than women. Measures to help women must take this aspect into account and include measures to lighten women's workloads and raise men's awareness of the need to take on certain activities for women.

4.5. Gender and value chains

Gender equality is an essential dimension of inclusive agricultural and economic growth, food and nutrition security and resilient food systems. Women play an important role in agriculture and in most value chains. Yet their work often remains invisible or insufficiently supported. Gender inequalities limit women's development and have a negative impact on the economic performance of value chains.

In Mali, women are present to varying degrees throughout the agricultural value chain, participating in the processing and marketing of farm produce. In the agricultural sector, women are present throughout the agricultural chain, but they do not have the necessary means to increase their production and productivity (lack of access to and control and ownership of land and means of production, etc.). They are generally involved in small-scale livestock farming and all the activities involved in processing and marketing agricultural products. Their role as producers in their own right is not always valued or accounted for. Women are mainly involved in growing food crops and market gardening for the family's subsistence. The challenge of food security cannot be met without counting on their contribution to food production or seeking to improve their access to land.

Also, despite the non-discriminatory texts, in practice, the influence of men dominates in terms of leadership. Decisions are generally taken by men in public and women are only consulted when necessary. The results of the gender and value chain analysis are shown in Table 3 below:

Table 3. Results of the gender and value chain analysis

Theme	Analysis results
Opportunities for women and young people in value chains from production to marketing	<p>In the regions of Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu, Segou and Koulikoro, as far as agricultural and forestry production is concerned, there is great agro-ecological diversity, reflected in agricultural production systems ranging from cereal-based systems to horticultural products and NTFPs, from the south to the north, via the centre. There is also considerable potential for agricultural land and a young population that is predominantly agricultural.</p> <p>Specifically for cereals, there are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A high level of consumption of agricultural products, particularly rice, millet, sorghum, etc. - Existence of approved input suppliers at local level. - There is a large amount of irrigable and arable land in each of these regions, including the Office du Niger zone in Ségou, the rice offices in Mopti and Ségou, and the Baguinéda irrigated perimeter office (Koulikoro), etc. - Agricultural development investment projects and programmes in the 5 regions.

³⁴ Fowowe B. 2022. Financial inclusion, gender gaps and agricultural productivity in Mali. Available [here](#).

³⁵ **Source:** Regional consultations and Albarka Gender Analysis

Theme	Analysis results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people and women are the main players, particularly in the workforce. - Existence of a national development policy for agriculture. - Available from government research departments. <p>Non-timber forest products are seasonal and are harvested almost all year round. There are balanites in Mopti, shea, baobab and wild jujube in Ségou, Koulikoro and Mopti, and zabban in Segou and Koulikoro.</p> <p>For processing :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A wide range of products processed from rice, millet, sorghum (couscous, crispy croquettes, cream) and PNFL (Zabban juice, baobab, shea butter, etc.). - Existence of trade fairs for processed products - Availability and existence of a large number of consumer by-products <p>For marketing: there are local assembly markets with popular weekly fairs, wholesale and institutional markets (OPAM and WFP) and other TFPs for emergency food distributions.</p> <p>The introduction by TFPs of cereal exchanges in several regions in the 5 regions. These include the USAID Feed the Future scholarships and the national scholarships organised by AMASSA Afrique.</p>
<p>Opportunities for women and young people to benefit from technical capacity-building in agriculture and agroforestry.</p>	<p>With regard to farming and forestry in the 5 regions, it should be noted that women and young people benefit sporadically from technical capacity building in agriculture and agroforestry. At this level, it should be noted that there is a shortage of staff in the technical services of the State's Agriculture and Water and Forestry Departments to ensure better coverage for capacity building for women and young people on farming and agroforestry techniques. According to the DRA -Mopti's report from May to September 2017 on the progress of the agricultural campaign in the Mopti region "<i>The number of staff is 146 managers and agents available out of a need for 317, i.e. a coverage rate of 46%. There are not enough staff to actively carry out the State's urgent and demanding regalian tasks in the 2,083 villages in the region's 108 communes. The number of plant health control officers is 13.</i></p> <p>It should also be noted that capacity building is generally carried out at the discontinuous pace of projects and programmes financed by TFPs in these areas. They are carried out with limited numbers of women and young people and in the traditional way for theory and practice on a demonstration plot. These capacity-building sessions last 2 to 3 days maximum. The participants in the capacity-building sessions give feedback to the remaining women and young people. It appears that the women and young people who give the feedback are not very good at passing on the information received during the training sessions.</p>
<p>Access for women and young people to market activities and infrastructure linked to agriculture and agroforestry</p>	<p>Women and young people will be given access to market activities and infrastructure related to agriculture and agroforestry through :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraging and supporting women's and young people's entrepreneurship projects in all links of the various value chains - Prioritising the installation of women and young people on developed plots of land, as recommended by the Agricultural Orientation Law and the Agricultural Land Law;

Theme	Analysis results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritising the selection and support (technical and financial) of women's and young people's entrepreneurship projects (individual or in organisations) in different links of the chains; - Ongoing lobbying of traditional authorities to encourage young people and women to set up rain-fed farming plots; - Raising awareness and advocating greater participation by women and young people in the decision-making bodies of farmers' organisations. - Facilitating their access to markets by providing support for tricycles
Constraints, opportunities and increased employment opportunities and improved employment options along agricultural value chains for women and young people	<p>In terms of constraints, we can list low decision-making capacity and power; access to productive resources for women and young people, such as land, finance, agricultural inputs, equipment and materials; domestic and family responsibilities that limit time and mobility, especially for women.</p> <p>Opportunities include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The over-representation of women and young people in informal employment is an asset for increasing the employment options of these groups. - The presence of women and young people in all segments (from production to marketing) is an opportunity, even if they benefit less from marketing.
Proposals for better employment of women and young people in value chains	<p>You will need :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate their access to and control over resources such as land, financing, agricultural inputs and equipment - Promote and develop women's and young people's entrepreneurship by setting up new types of producers, processors and holders of resilient agri-businesses based on innovation (use of green energy) by women and young people specialised in their areas of activity and operating with positive economic and financial results. - Provide these young companies with better ongoing training, accompanied by experience-sharing visits, fair and appropriate access to resources and funding, and simplified, realistic business plans. - Facilitate intermediation between these young companies, input suppliers and potential buyers
Constraints and opportunities associated with the increased adoption of climate-smart agricultural and agroforestry technologies by women and young people	<p>The constraints are many and varied, as a large proportion (around 90%) of young people, especially women, do not have the appropriate skills and techniques to adopt agricultural and agroforestry technologies. This is due to poor or non-existent technical training on the technologies, lack of information on the techniques and, above all, lack of access to improved seeds adapted to the climate and lack of equipment to enable them to adopt the techniques more widely. In addition to these constraints, there is a low level of literacy among farmers, particularly women (19%)³⁶ and insufficient knowledge of environmental issues.</p> <p>As far as opportunities are concerned, the five regions have a wide range of agro-ecological diversity, reflected in agricultural production systems ranging from basic systems for the production of cereals and horticultural products from the south to the north, via the centre of the country. It should also be</p>

³⁶ **Source:** REPORT Demographic and Health Survey EDSM-VI 2019

Theme	Analysis results
	added that there are technical research and supervision services available in the 5 regions, most of which have carried out major research in the target areas, and the implementation of their recommendations could significantly improve production in the face of the climate. The efforts of the TFPs to give vulnerable people (young people and women) access to and adoption of technologies are noteworthy. We can cite the "green innovation" project funded by GIZ, and Feed the Future funded by USAID, which are all working to increase the adoption of technologies.
Steps to be taken to increase the adoption of climate-smart agricultural and agroforestry technologies by women and young people?	<p><i>These include</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fair and secure access to land resources - an important factor in production and the application of technology - Developing mechanisms for adapting to climate change by promoting appropriate and ongoing training in the various technologies. - Providing information on climate, agriculture and agroforestry - Access to the necessary tools, in particular improved seeds - Exploiting water resources in an integrated and equitable manner by promoting and using renewable energies (solar panels, wind turbines) so that production is not solely dependent on rainfall.
Constraints and opportunities for women's and young people's access to knowledge about agricultural climate risks, CCA and CCM planning, and best practice in agriculture and agroforestry through new and existing climate-smart agroforestry institutions.	<p>"Climate change is one of the major challenges facing the socio-economic development of all countries today. Mali is particularly at risk because of its low income, weak human capital and economic vulnerability. Various studies carried out on climate change (CC) in Mali have shown that the main climatic challenges facing the country are droughts, floods, poor rainfall, violent winds and sharp variations in temperature. These climate changes threaten first and foremost the primary sector (agriculture, livestock farming, fishing) and the exploitation of forests, key sectors of the country's economy. On the one hand, women are victims of the harmful effects of climate change, but on the other, some women's activities"³⁷</p> <p>There are a number of constraints, including waves of drought, irregular rainfall and rising temperatures. Added to this is deforestation due to massive logging, soil degradation and a shortage of agricultural land, all of which have an impact on productivity and food security.</p>
Proposal for better access for women and young people to knowledge about agricultural climate risks, CCA and CCM planning, and best practices in agriculture and agroforestry through new and existing institutions.	<p>First of all, there needs to be training, information and awareness-raising on the effects and consequences of climate change, along with the various techniques for adapting to each risk, effect or consequence. In addition, making climate information, agriculture and agroforestry available. Conducting experience-sharing visits based on tangible scenarios with climate-smart villages using similar tools developed by research centres such as ICRISAT. Then, granting and/or guiding women and young people towards equipment and tools enabling intelligent production, such as soilless gardens.</p>
Constraints to the participation/emergence of women in the value chain	<p>It is well known that women often work in the least valued links in value chains, e.g. as homeworkers or in informal work more generally. Women tend to be underpaid and their (informal) jobs are more precarious. In the five rural areas, women are often not visible, even though they carry out a large proportion of agricultural activities.</p>

³⁷ **Source:** FAO and ECOWAS Commission, Profil National Genre des Secteurs de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural - Mali. Gender Country Assessment Series, Bamako, Mali Fatoumata Alidou GARÉKA MALLÉ, 2018

Theme	Analysis results
	In addition to social and traditional constraints, factual constraints, in particular access to productive resources (land, goods, agricultural services, financial services) and capacity and decision-making power (capacity, self-confidence, decision-making power), are holding back the emergence of women in the value chain.
Where are the men and women among the producers, retailers, wholesalers and processors? Who controls the marketing channels?	In the case of cereals, men are more than 90% present at all levels, unlike market garden produce, where women are more than 95% visible. When it comes to forestry products, particularly harvested products, women outnumber men. In the case of citrus fruit, women and young people are present both as labourers and in sales. Women are also in the majority in processing. As far as marketing channels are concerned, women are almost in the majority when it comes to market garden produce, while men are more involved in cereals.
Access to equipment and infrastructure for post-harvest management, processing, etc.	<p>According to the report Profil National Genre des Secteurs de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural - Mali, access to equipment has a considerable impact on agricultural productivity and production. Given the relatively high cost of access, equipment is generally the property of the farm. Women's low incomes and limited access to agricultural credit mean that fewer of them own agricultural equipment and therefore have limited access to it. Of the women farmers who own equipment, 43% have ploughs, 35% donkey hoes and 10% carts. The other types of equipment are owned exclusively by farmers. Whatever the type of equipment, women's farms are always under-equipped compared with men's farms. The equipment on women's farms consists mainly of ploughs. Women's lack of equipment is a significant factor in their productivity. On their farms, women can only get the equipment when work is finished on the other plots, often causing delays in the cultivation calendar.</p> <p>Post-harvest management: Women do not have control over family production, as it is the men who produce (in some cases), store and remove bundles of millet from the granary. When it comes to managing food for the family, women in monogamous households are much more involved in decision-making. On the other hand, in polygamous households, it is usually the first woman to join the household who is consulted, or at least informed, about the decisions the husband wants to take in terms of food security. In agricultural households, it is the men who decide how the harvests are distributed. They make donations to certain members of the family and to needy neighbors towards whom they feel a duty of solidarity. In charge of preparing meals, the women must inform the men of the daily ration required and warn them if it is insufficient. If the stock is exhausted, it is the man who decides what food to buy, even if the purchase has to come from the woman's own resources (income from the sale of ruminants or from parallel activities). She only decides if he asks her opinion.</p>
Controls production resources, equipment and infrastructure	The means of production, equipment and infrastructure are controlled by people.
Positioning of men and women among aggregators	Men are in the majority as aggregators, unlike women and young people
Positioning women and men in production	Men account for over 90% of cereal production, unlike market garden produce, where women account for over 95%. For citrus fruit, women and young people are present as labourers but not as producers. They are rarely involved in production.

Theme	Analysis results
Access to and control over resources and income for women and young people	<p>Under Malian customary law, women are excluded from land ownership, even though they play a major role in land use. Owning certain assets, such as land and houses, can confer a degree of financial and social autonomy, and can also have a beneficial effect on households. For women, owning property can increase their autonomy, their level of income and even their purchasing power, as well as giving them access to decision-making bodies and protecting them in the event of marital breakdown. According to FAO statistics, between 1996 and 2007, only 3.1% of Malian farms were owned by women. What's more, women who generate income do not have full access to these resources. "... if women had the same access to these resources as men, they would produce 20-30% more food..." - FAO at work 2010-2011 Although dominated by the Bambara ethnic group, the population of the Ségou and Koulikoro regions is made up of different ethnic groups spread throughout the territory. These groups are traditionally characterised by a strong social hierarchy in which women, as mothers and wives/housekeepers, are assigned roles that determine their access to productive resources, their participation in household decisions or economic and social opportunities. They are generally responsible for accompanying their family or husband in the exploitation and use of resources (natural, financial, productive, etc.), which creates a disparity that limits their access to resources in the same way as men. The same applies to the benefits and income derived from these resources.</p> <p>However, it is important to point out that in rural areas, the community or the men temporarily hand over small plots of land to women, especially married women, to allow them to work the land "usufructuously", with the aim of strengthening the ingredients of the condiment and generating a little income, most of which is used to maintain the family. These plots loaned to the women can be taken back at any time. According to the EDSM VI 2018 report, 19.9% of women in the Koulikoro region and 13.4% in the Ségou region own land alone. Those who own land jointly, i.e. with other people, are estimated at 12.2% in Koulikoro and 8.5% in Ségou.</p> <p>The young people participate in the family farm and part of the income from these farms can be used to help the young people with their expenses, such as the cost of the young man's wedding or the young woman's dowry, or part of the resources could be given to the young men to set up a business or go on an adventure.</p>
Participation of women and young people in decision-making	<p>According to information gathered in the Ségou and Mopti regions, decisions concerning the community are generally taken by the village chief and the village councillors, all of whom are men. Family decisions are taken by husbands or the head of the household. Young people and women have a consultative role and issue opinions, even if the decision often concerns them.</p> <p>"Despite the non-discriminatory texts, in practice, the influence of men dominates in terms of leadership. Decisions are generally taken by men in public and women are only consulted when necessary".</p>
Legal status of women and young people	<p>The Malian Constitution clearly sets out the principle of equality and non-discrimination. Article 2 stipulates that "All Malians are born and remain free and equal in rights and duties. Discrimination based on social origin, colour, language, race, sex, religion or political opinion is prohibited". In addition, Mali has ratified, often without reservation, several regional and international conventions and treaties relating to the protection and promotion of women's rights.</p>

Theme	Analysis results
	However, the content of the texts has not yet been translated into practice, as the influence of men dominates at almost every level. This is reflected in the fact that decisions are taken by men, even though women and young people have an advisory role.
Access for women and young people to information on climate change, the environment, agriculture and agroforestry	<p>Information on climate, the environment and agriculture is disseminated and accessed through a variety of channels, including radio, TV, newspapers and the internet. Rural communities in the Ségou and Koulikoro regions also use radio and TV. Newspapers and the internet are generally accessible in urban areas in addition to radio and TV, and this is explained by the level of education, the means for smart phones with internet and also the source of energy. Information is accessible by telephone through Orange-Mali's "SENEKELA", but this is not widely used by the population.</p> <p>In Mali, overall³⁸, women are less exposed to the media. In fact, 39% of women do not use any of the three media - newspapers, radio or television - for information, compared to 31% of men. It is worth noting that radio is the most widely used medium: 47% of women and 54% of men said they listened to the radio at least once a week. Furthermore, 2% of women and 5% of men are exposed to all three media at least once a week. EDSM VI 2018 report.</p> <p>In the Koulikoro and Ségou regions, 36.6% and 43.8% of women respectively do not use any media at least once a week, with a rate of 20.0% for urban areas and 46.1% for rural areas. For men in the same areas, 28.9% and 27.4% respectively use no media at least once a week, with a rate of 14.0% for urban areas and 37.4% for rural areas. In the light of these data, we can deduce that women's and young people's access to information on the climate, the environment, agriculture and agroforestry is relatively low compared with men. Moreover, young people, especially women, do not always have access to sources of information such as radio, television, newspapers or magazines, which are the main source of information on climate change and the measures to be taken. Without information on climate change or adaptation options, women become vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The National Climate Change Adaptation Plan lists the main social groups vulnerable to climate change as women, young people, the elderly, the disabled, orphans and widows.</p>

4.6. Power and decision-making.

In Mali, social norms and the sexual division of labour largely exclude women from public decision-making and conflict resolution. The representation³⁹ of women in all the Institutions saw a timid increase of 0.6 points between 2014 and 2015. In 2023, women accounted for 28.5% of MPs; women party leaders accounted for just 2%. Similarly, female farm managers have less access to farmers' organisations: 17% of them belong to a farmers' organisation compared with 32% of men.

The proportion of women councillors was 8.3% in the 2009 elections, 1.9 percentage points higher than in 2004 and 4.3 percentage points higher than in 1999.

In 2020, this rate rose sharply to 25.5%. This result is linked to Law No. 2015-052, which obliges political parties to include one-third women on proposed electoral lists. This obligation was met, and out of 79,238 candidates, there were 26,436 women, i.e. 33.4%⁴⁰. The Conseil National de la

³⁸ Source: EDSM VI 2018 report

³⁹ Source: Report on the representativeness of women in positions of responsibility in the Public Administration_2015

⁴⁰ Source: Election report/synthesis, 2016

Transition (CNT) has twenty-eight (28) women out of one hundred and forty-seven (147) members, i.e. 28.57%. The current transitional government has only 6 women out of 29 members, i.e. 20.68%. Out of nineteen (19) governors, only one is a woman, i.e. 5.26%.

The causes of women's low representation in decision-making bodies are: (i) political will, (ii) negative social perception of women politicians, (iii) women's low political maturity, their low level of education and literacy, (iv) women's exclusion from decision-making bodies and structures that grant economic or development resources at all levels. With regard to decision-making, according to, the EDSM - VI 2018, less than a third of women (28%) participate in the decision for visits to their family or relatives, 20% participate in the decision for major household purchases and 20% for their own health care. Only 10% participate in all three decisions and 63% declared not to participate in any of the three decisions mentioned above.

The 2.36% representation rate⁴¹ of women in conflict management bodies (CSA, DDR, MOC, CRSS, special advisers to Governors, interim authorities) bears this out. At the level of the transitional justice process, efforts to take gender into account are visible, in particular at the level of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, which has created a sub-committee on gender and adopted a work plan enabling the systematic integration of gender issues into all four pillars of the CVJR's work. The CVJR has also been the most representative peace mechanism in terms of women's participation, with 5 women Commissioners out of 25 (20%) until the appointment of women to the CSA in 2020. This consideration of gender is also reflected in the large number of statements made by women (50%)⁴².

According to the results of regional and national consultations, it should be noted that although older women are highly regarded, their role is generally limited to mediating family disputes, passing on social values and bringing up children. With the men's agreement, women can temporarily farm small plots of land. Among livestock farmers, women have the right to use income from the sale of milk. In both cases, they have little say in the management of public affairs and conflicts.

In the areas covered by the gender analysis, even when women are involved in exploiting and developing the land (market gardening and reforestation), they cannot own it, even though they have a great deal of knowledge about natural resources, the impact of socio-climatic changes and ideas to put forward for better management. At community level, there are many village groups, often made up of married and elderly women. However, they have no direct access to the customary chiefs in the traditional institutions where decisions are taken. Until the outbreak of communal violence, these groups were mixed, made up mainly of Dogon and Peulh women.

Despite the presence of women in the communal councils of the five regions covered by the IAAT project, the power relationship has not changed overall, and women's priorities relating to the management of natural resources or conflicts are still little taken into account in public decisions and local development plans. These priorities relate in particular to improving the status of women in terms of access to land management and ownership, which remains a highly discriminatory area for women. Gender relations have begun to change in Mopti, Ségou, Gao and Timbuktu as a result of the insecurity, accentuating women's dependence on the men in their families to protect them from violence. This situation can lead some women to encourage young men to join armed groups, for protection against other armed groups or the FDS, whom they do not trust. Where male family members are absent due to conflict or migration, women have to provide for their families. Many have become heads of household and income earners, particularly by developing economic activities. They have demonstrated their resilience by finding endogenous solutions to meet their needs. At the same time, women's real reproductive role and their contribution to economic

⁴¹ **Source:** Data, Bulletin Statistique, La Femme et l'Enfant en chiffres au Mali, CNDIFE, 2018, updated.

⁴² UNDP Prosmad project document

production and family management remain unrecognised and underestimated by the community, which accentuates their marginalisation and exclusion from conflict prevention and management. In addition to their resilience in providing for their families, a large proportion of women's occupations involve domestic tasks such as caring for members of the household, which are often not quantified in the various contributions made by women to economic activities in the communes targeted by IAAT.

4.7. Availability and use of gender indicators

To improve the profitability of the work of rural women active in key production sectors (agriculture, livestock, fisheries and the environment), PNG-Mali has included gender indicators in its action plan:

- Percentage of women with access to developed land,
- Percentage of women and young people who have benefited from funding from the National Agricultural Support Fund,
- Percentage of women who have applied modern techniques for the production, processing and sustainable conservation of agricultural, livestock and fishery products,
- Percentage of women trained and supervised in sustainable plant production and regeneration techniques,
- Productivity rate of women who have benefited from inputs in areas at high risk of natural disasters,
- Women's rate of access to financial resources and factors of production.

These indicators set out in the NGP-Mali should serve as a reference for the various stakeholders, particularly the IAAT project.

4.8. Rights and legal status.

4.8.1. How women and men are treated in customary and formal legal codes and by judicial systems

Discussions in groups and with key informants show that women and men are viewed differently by customary and formal legal codes, as well as by judicial systems. Details of these differences can be found in Table 4.

Table 4. How women and men are treated in customary and formal legal codes and by judicial systems⁴³

Question	Answers	
How women and men are viewed and treated by :	Formal legal codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a difference between men and women in the legal code: - According to the marriage code, the man is the head of the family. - It's the man who chooses where to live. - The child takes his father's surname.
	Customary law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the legal and customary framework, women do not have the same right to land as men. Even though the law provides for 15% of the land developed to be allocated to women and. young people - Women are an inheritance. - There is a difference in access to employment, due to women's low level of education.
	Religious	Religion treats men and women differently.
	Coutumiers Inheritance	Women themselves are an inheritance.
	Religious heirs	The wife receives a third of the inheritance.
	Formal legal	The man does not benefit from the advantages of the death of his civil servant wife (death benefit and pension).
	Employment	There is a difference in access to employment, due to women's low level of education.

As can be seen from Table 5, formal legal codes treat men and women in the same way, without distinction, unlike customary codes, which treat men and women differently. As for the expiation of wrongs and legal representation, the legal provisions prevail and no distinction is made between men and women. Even though there is often discrimination against women, for example if a woman applies for a divorce, if the judge or magistrate is a man, he tends to incriminate the woman without trying to understand the reasons why the woman applied for a divorce⁴⁴. In this respect, it is also worth noting that formal legal codes straddle religious codes, so that when the woman concerned is a Muslim, for example, Islamic law prevails.

4.8.2. Assessment of documents issued by the State, such as identity cards, registration on the electoral rolls and title deeds

- **Identity cards:** in accordance with current legislation, the conditions for obtaining identity cards are identical for men and women. But the reality is quite different for women. In rural areas, in most cases, the birth certificates used to issue identity cards are held by men, and women have to fight hard to obtain them. The men equate women's need to obtain a card with women leaving the marital home. In some cases, women do not have the resources to obtain identity documents, and often it is the procedures for obtaining cards that they are unfamiliar with.
- **Voter registration:** the difficulties women have in registering to vote are due to illiteracy, socio-cultural constraints, refusal by husbands, etc...

⁴³ Based on discussions with those responsible for promoting the advancement of women

⁴⁴ Source: women from the Ministry of Justice

- **Property titles:** in rural areas, women have difficulty gaining access to property titles. The main reasons for this are lack of financial resources and customary management of property. For example, according to the household survey conducted by the Mopti Planning Department, **only 9.7% of 100 farm managers are women.**

4.9. Effects of climate change, consequences and categories of people affected

Table 5. Effects of climate change, consequences and people affected

Effects of Climate Change	Consequences	Categories of people affected
Land-related - Velocity of withdrawal of land from rightful owners - Access to land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weakening of the social fabric and lack of trust between men and women in the community ▪ Weakening of the social fabric and lack of trust between men and women in the community ▪ Exodus ▪ Banditry/crime/theft ▪ Decline in production ▪ Family abandonment ▪ Forced divorce ▪ Widowhood ▪ Female head of family after the man leaves; ▪ Family break-up ▪ Prostitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communities, Families - Communities and families - Young girls and boys - Young boys - Households/families - Women - Women - Women - Women - Families - Women and girls
Linked to livestock farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weakening of the social fabric and lack of trust between men and women in the community. 	Communities and families
Access to agricultural residues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weakening of the social fabric and lack of trust between men and women in the community. 	Communities and families
Fisheries resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tension between users 	Men, women, girls and boys

Table 5 above shows that women, like girls and boys, are the most affected by the effects of climate change.

4.10. The needs and interests of women and men, girls and boys

Taking specific account of gender in socio-economic development is legitimate and fully complies with the provisions of Mali's National Gender Policy (PNG Mali) drawn up in 2011. For the purposes of this analysis, the proposals made in support of those affected by gender are set out in **Table 6.**

Table 6 . Differentiated needs and interests of women, men, girls and boys⁴⁵

Gender actors	Needs/interest
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training/awareness-raising on gender and human rights - Training/awareness-raising on climate change, natural resource management and cultural techniques - Training in the maintenance of materials and equipment granted - Financial support - Support for IGAs (small livestock/small ruminants, market gardening, petty trading, literacy, soap-making, dyeing, etc.), - Trades (cutting and sewing, dyeing, etc.), - Reforestation, - Agricultural inputs.
Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small business, - Beef fattening.
Young girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training in the trade (dyeing, soap-making, petty trading, etc.), - Crafts (cutting and sewing).
Young boys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small-scale livestock farming / fattening small and large ruminants, fodder production, - Trades (metal and wood joinery), - Agricultural equipment, - Agricultural inputs.
Vulnerable groups, in particular female heads of household, including people with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small business, - Small-scale breeding, - Agricultural inputs, - Means of transport.

4.11. Gender and COVID - 19

The COVID-19 pandemic, which was officially declared in Mali in March 2020, has claimed 461 victims, including 138 women in the Mopti region⁴⁶. COVID-19 has further weakened the most vulnerable sectors of society, namely women and girls. In particular, those who sold food in markets, near offices and in schools saw their incomes fall and were trapped in their day-to-day activities, in most cases taking no appropriate measures to protect themselves. Women's daily informal activities in urban centres, even in conflict zones, have put them at even greater risk. The configuration of Malian society meant that it was they who were in constant contact with other members of the community, so they ran a greater risk of being contaminated and of transmitting the disease to the rest of their family. In times of conflict, the pandemic has only increased the vulnerability of women, who have been deprived of housing and whose means of subsistence have been undermined, and who can only suffer from the arrival of a pandemic on the scale of COVID-19.

A study commissioned by the UNFPA highlighted the fact that cohabitation could have led to acts of violence within households. Inactivity and lack of income have also been identified as factors leading to GBV in Mali. It should be noted that men's dominant position within the household, due

⁴⁵ Based on discussions during regional consultations

⁴⁶ Source: DRPSIAP - Mopti

to their financial situation, has been affected and has caused stress and irritation⁴⁷. The closure of international borders and market restrictions have had a major impact on informal traders. Also, with the pandemic, women suffered more gender-based violence due to general social stress combined with increasing tensions surrounding the fact that the family lived in unusual proximity, in addition to limited access to food and basic supplies. The informal social safety nets and networks on which many women had previously depended for support were now weakened due to reduced physical mobility and social remoteness. Misinformation was easier to access than official information. People relied heavily on traditional and miracle healers and medicines, and rumours spread more quickly than official information from the relevant authorities in whom communities had no confidence. In addition, the broadcasts sharing information were generally shared at times when women were carrying out domestic work such as cooking or fetching water. Curfews and restrictive measures further penalised women.

In remote areas, they did not have access either to good information or to materials enabling them to protect themselves against disease. Women's work schedules were increased by the need to look after children who no longer went to school⁴⁸. The pandemic also led to increased spending on health kits (masks, bleach, soap, hand-washing buckets, etc.). With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was also noted that: (i) access to basic social services had become problematic since the outbreak of COVID-19, particularly health services, GBV management services and education services; (ii) schools were closed in order to control the spread of COVID-19. As a result, the 2019-2020 school year, which was already disrupted by teachers' strikes, came close to being a blank year; (iii) Access to healthcare services was the most problematic aspect of the pandemic. Unprepared for the pandemic, like other public sectors, the health sector offered little security to users and health workers alike. The quality of the delivery of healthcare services during the pandemic period by professionals in the sector suggested that they were at the same level of psychological preparation as the general public. Fear of infection and the lack of specific protective measures for health workers, to name but a few, meant that users did not see health services as a 1^{er} recourse; (iv) Access to drinking water was quite problematic during the pandemic period, as women and girls had to travel to obtain supplies. This might seem insignificant in the big cities, where the source of drinking water was available in the family's backyard, but in rural areas, they had to walk several metres, if not kilometres, to obtain drinking water. And these water points represented potential sources of contamination, given that masks were not worn at all, and other distancing measures were not respected.

The needs and interests of women and girls (and people with disabilities) are neither represented nor specifically taken into account in the planning and response to the pandemic. In terms of governance, women and girls were consulted very little, either on the intervention plans or on the interventions relating to COVID-19, in particular on the economic, health, sanitation and hygiene measures aimed at reducing the risk of gender-based violence (GBV). As far as the level of information is concerned, many people, especially women, knew that there were health measures in place, but did not have precise and clear information about the regulations on confinement and health. They were not aware of the care facilities, let alone the care protocol. The telephone and local radio stations were effective means of communication for reaching the most vulnerable women and girls, but e-mail was not within their reach. A number of actions were taken, including the involvement of women in community dialogue via social networks and WhatsApp groups, and the creation of **income-generating activities** (IGAs) to empower them. As a result, women have been able to assess the scale of COVID-19 and become more resilient to this pandemic.

⁴⁷ United Nations, UNFPA: A gender perspective, protecting sexual and reproductive health and rights and promoting gender equality, Technical Briefing, March 2020 https://plateforme-elsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/French.COVID-19_A_Gender_Lens_Guidance_Note_edits_clean_file_0.pdf

⁴⁸ My own observations

4.12. Violence against women, combating female circumcision

Analysis of the EDSM-V data shows that the Malian population is lax and insensitive when it comes to domestic violence. There is still no specific law on violence against women (domestic violence, sexual harassment, forced and/or early marriages, excision). The rationalisation of these acts of violence and the social pressure on the victims explain the widespread impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators. Excision is almost universally practised in Mali, affecting 91% of women aged between 15 and 49. In terms of combating the practice, the National Programme to Combat Excision (PNLE) is an important achievement. However, like some neighbouring countries, Mali has not yet passed legislation banning female genital mutilation.

The scale of gender-based violence (GBV) has been exacerbated by the political, institutional and security crises that began in 2012, the persistence of inter-community conflicts, and the atrocities of armed groups and violent extremism. According to the MICS 2015, female genital mutilation is the most widespread form of GBV in Mali (83% of women aged between 15 and 49) and 48.8% of girls were married before the age of 18. GBVIMS recorded 4,617 incidents in 2019, 4,411 incidents were recorded from January to September 2020. According to the Regional Directorates for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family, in Ségou, 126 cases of GBV were recorded in 2022, in Koulikoro 3,419 cases including Dioila and Nara, and in Timbuktu 88 cases during the same period.

These figures only partially reflect the real situation of GBV in the country, given the weakness of the judicial system and impunity. Women have very little access to justice services (4%), unlike men (9%), and family pressure often prevents them from speaking out about the violence they have suffered. A draft special law drawn up and validated in 2017 by a national multi-sectoral and multi-party committee under the leadership of the MPFEF is still in the process of being adopted internally at executive level.

4.13. Conflict prevention and management mechanisms

As far as women's involvement in conflict resolution is concerned, conflict resolution and prevention issues in Mali are still managed almost exclusively by men in the communities and are therefore highly discriminatory for women, even beyond any religious or cultural considerations, despite the fact that they have proven potential and capabilities in conflict resolution and prevention and, more generally, in peace-building. Since 2012, women have accounted for less than 10% of peace negotiators, and this figure has hardly changed since the adoption of resolution 1325 in 2000. Through participatory approaches that value women's contribution, this IAAT project will promote behavioural change towards a culture of inclusiveness in formal and informal conflict resolution and prevention mechanisms linked to the local level, as well as improved access for women to sustainable and resilient economic empowerment opportunities. In addition to the contestation of local leaders, opinion leaders and religious leaders, the exclusion and discrimination of women and ignorance of their role in revitalising conflict management mechanisms exacerbates women's vulnerability. IAAT presents an opportunity to reverse this trend by relying on women who have proven skills in social mediation and by strengthening their role in family and community units in matters of social cohesion and conflict management. Past experience, particularly with peace huts in Mali, has shown that if women are mobilised and involved, this can have a positive impact on conflict prevention and resolution at community level, especially as they themselves can play an active role in triggering these conflicts. The translation of Law 052 of December 2015 and its dissemination in the IAAT project areas should also be considered.

In all the areas covered by the gender analysis, prevention and management mechanisms were found to exist⁴⁹ :

Legislative provisions

- **The State judicial system:** it operates according to legal rules, it is the law, and is not very active in prevention.
- **Land Commissions (CoFo):** these are an emanation of the State (cf. Agricultural Land Law - LFA, N°2017-001 of 11 April 2017); they are set up at the level of all communes. **Village CoFo are not set up but village chiefs are members of communal CoFo.** The communal CoFos are not yet operating satisfactorily, because they are not yet well known at village level (need for information and awareness-raising), and at communal level because they are not responsible for their operation (need for awareness-raising and responsibility for their operation). Women and young people are poorly represented in these CoFos. But with the support of certain development partners, this trend is changing.
- Decree No. 2017-0367/PM-RM of 28 April 2017, as amended, establishing the national reconciliation support mission (MARN) within the ministry responsible for national reconciliation. Article 3 of this decree provides for the establishment of regional reconciliation support teams in all regions with the following missions: to inform and raise awareness among the population about the peace process; to identify mediation and conflict management mechanisms; to prevent, mediate and manage intra- and inter-community conflicts; and to support reconciliation at local level. As of 31.12.2020, the following PRRAs are partially operational: Mopti, Ségou, Gao, Timbuktu and Koulikoro.
- Women and young people are poorly or not at all represented in the PRRAs in the regions of Ségou, Koulikoro, Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu.
- **The RCCs** are set up by the PRRAs in the municipalities. Their purpose is to prevent and resolve, as close as possible to the complex realities on the ground, sources of conflict and the dynamics of strengthening social cohesion. They should only be set up if there is not already a functioning reconciliation mechanism in the area. There is also a lack of women's participation in the communal reconciliation committees.
- **The watchdog committees**, which are usually set up by certain development actors, are not operational. Women have said that they are represented on these committees. For example, Bankass has one (1), and Teninkou has a few women.
- **Local authorities (mayors and other elected representatives):** born out of the political reform of the State, they settle many disputes at local level. However, in some localities, the conflict resolution actions of this player are often condemned by the judiciary.
- **Village committees:** these are set up by the communities, and most of them function well in several localities. This type of organisation manages community affairs: forest surveillance committee, water point management committee, dispute management committee.

As for the successes and failures of these schemes, they are varied

The main success lies in the amicable settlement of conflicts at village level (action by the village chiefdom, with the village chief being a member of the communal CoFo). The shortcomings noted were: (i) insufficient financial and logistical resources for travel; (ii) poor understanding of the roles of the members of the watch committees, with communities wondering why the watch committees? The consequences of failure are generally the cause of social disintegration and family poverty.

⁴⁹ Regional consultations

4.14. The situation of displaced persons

With the security situation, women and girls are becoming increasingly vulnerable. Many women have become heads of household (the men have either been killed, abducted or fled) and are left to fend for themselves. The displaced are scattered in camps, in families and in houses under construction. At national level, for example, there are 412,387 displaced returnees and 120,298 internally displaced persons, 224,124 of whom are women, i.e. 54.34% of women⁵⁰. This category of vulnerable people should be taken into account in the IAAT project.

Table 7. Situation of displaced persons in the analysis regions

N°	Regions	Total number of displaced persons - es	Number of women	Rate for women
1	Mopti	84 581	45 534	53,38%
2	Gao	61 435	35 609	57,96%
3	Timbuktu	52 153	28 599	54,83%
4	Ségou	35 295	19 682	55,76%
5	Koulikoro	4 241	2 031	47, 88%

Gao stands out from the other regions in terms of the number of displaced women, followed by Ségou and Timbuktu, as shown in table 7. As a vulnerable, marginalised group, the project will have to pay particular attention to these displaced women, especially in terms of empowering them and strengthening their resilience.

4.15. Specific and relevant knowledge, skills and experience of women as natural resource users and producers⁵¹

The gender analysis reveals that women have specific and relevant knowledge, skills and experience as users of natural resources and as producers.

- **As users:** they have knowledge, skills and experience in plant production and reforestation. They also have knowledge of how to raise awareness among communities, women and young people about natural resource management issues. As leaders and members of monitoring committees, they ensure the rational management of natural resources.
- **As producers:** they play a key role in the development, processing and marketing of harvested products.

4.16. Identification of stakeholders

4.16.1 Identification of existing women's groups in the project's target areas and their respective capacities, with a view to strengthening their ability to participate in climate change resilience activities⁵².

The Regional Directorates for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family in the gender analysis regions have inventoried 102 associations/groupings in Ségou, 255 in Koulikoro, plus 251 in Mopti, 1,700 in Gao and 455 in Timbuktu. Despite the lack of material and financial resources, these associations have the capacity to mobilise women and raise their awareness of climate change. The leaders of some associations are also ambassadors for peace and can be put to good use in promoting women in value chains, climate security and the sustainable management of

⁵⁰ Source: DNDS, Population Monitoring Matrix Report (DTM)_ April 2022

⁵¹ Regional consultations

⁵² Regional consultations

natural resources. They are also involved in self-help and support for women, socio-economic development and the fight against poverty. To this end, an organisational audit of these groups and associations is more than necessary.

4.16.2. Institutions or leaders supporting women

Table 8: Institutions and leaders allied with and able to support women⁵³

Institutions or leaders supporting women	Actions actually carried out	Capacity-building needs of leaders supporting women
Customary chiefs of neighbourhoods and villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support and guidance for women, - Loan/grant of agricultural land, - Mobilising women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights training. - Training on the texts, ratified conventions and commitments made by Mali in the area of women's rights.
Muslim leaders (High Islamic Council of Mali)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preaching on women's rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge of the PPG project, its objectives, results, targets and area of intervention.
Leaders of the Catholic Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing and raising community awareness of the roles and responsibilities of women in society and in the management of natural resources, - Supporting and mobilising women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights training.
The imams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing and raising community awareness of the roles and responsibilities of women in society and in the management of natural resources, - Entrepreneurial freedom for women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training on climate change. - Training on the challenges of climate security and natural resource management.
Pastors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing the community and raising awareness of the role of women in society. 	
Managers of local associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilising women; - Raising women's awareness of the issue of climate change. 	
The women presidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilising women to learn about their rights and IGAs, and about the issues of natural resource management and conflict prevention and management, - Ambassadors for peace. 	
Elected representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness and providing information on issues such as early marriage and female circumcision. 	
RECOTRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication to strengthen social cohesion and preserve nature. 	

According to Table 9 above, the coordination of neighborhood and village chiefs, the High Islamic Council, the Catholic and Protestant churches, youth leaders and traditional communicators all support the women's cause. The table above also gives details of what is being done by these various actors. The IAAT project will have to consider each category of actor as a strategic ally, and to do this, each actor will have to benefit from a reinforcement and support programme based

⁵³ The result of regional consultations

on the needs identified above, so that they are in a position to fully play their roles as allies and supporters.

4.17. Constraints faced by women in pursuing their practical and strategic gender interests

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The obstacles facing women identified by the analysis are:

- The coexistence of modern and customary law, which enshrines the hierarchy of the sexes and gender stereotypes (social roles attributed to each sex);
- Female illiteracy,
- Women's lack of access to sources of information on climate change and the measures that need to be taken,
- Low awareness among women's associations of the need to adapt to the effects of climate change,
- Women's poor knowledge of sustainable management and rational use of natural resources,
- Women's low resilience to climate change,
- The low representation of women in conflict prevention and management frameworks and mechanisms,
- Customs and traditions,
- Socio-cultural and religious constraints,
- Women's lack of self-confidence / Women's fear of commitment.

5. Recommendations for the IAAT project

The best approaches for taking action to include and empower women and girls include:

1. **Increasing access to resources needed for climate adaptation and mitigation.** The gender assessment shows that women in the project locations have less access to finance, technologies, and knowledge for better management of climate change-related risks. IAAT needs to support them to increase women's access to finance by increasing their involvement in VSLAs, linking them to financial institutions, training them on financial management, and providing knowledge on financial resources available to them. IAAT should also strongly advocate community leaders, including elected representatives, traditional chiefs, religious leaders, and administrative authorities, for greater women's access to and control of resources and benefits by bringing them into the CACs process. Gender equality must be implied while selecting beneficiaries and distributing project resources such as CSA technologies (e.g. solar pumps, biodigesters, improved seeds/breeds, etc.) and agroforestry inputs (e.g. planning materials and equipment).
2. **Creating space for women:** gender assessment shows that women have low decision-making roles in choosing production inputs and marketing activities compared to men. In addition, women's involvement in entrepreneurship is very low. IAAT's capacity-building activities can strengthen women's capabilities by increasing their access to information (both market and climate information), and building entrepreneurship skills for the selected businesses (such as value addition and post-harvest management, market gardens, agroforestry products, etc.). Creating space for women in business environments across the

⁵⁴ Results of group work during national and regional consultations

agriculture and agroforestry value chain can improve their decision-making ability at the household and community levels.

3. **Linking with the private sector:** our assessment indicates that men are more engaged with the private sector service providers such as agriculture product collectors and aggregators and input suppliers (e.g. seed, feed, animal health services, and tools/equipment). Equal access and engagement by men and women with the private sector service provider can increase their participation in the existing market and new value chains. IAAT's should facilitate linking women with the private sector through integration into the value chains as key actors.
4. **Access to extension services:** Women's access to extension services as well as their involvement in extension service provision is limited. IAAT can develop a gender-sensitive CSA curriculum to integrate into the existing agriculture extension system (for both public and private). The gender-sensitive CSA curriculum can focus on gender rôle in input use, production and marketing in agriculture and agroforestry sectors. Currently, women's involvement in agriculture extension services is very low in Mali due to their low education rate and socio-cultural barriers as discussed in this gender assessment report. In the training and capacity building of extension service providers, women should be included as much as possible. This will help IAAT to reach more women farmers through women extension officers in Mali's cultural setting where women are less engaged with men extension officers.
5. **Empowering women in early warnings and climate action:** In Mali, women are placed at greater risk through a lack of timely and relevant information about climate risks and a lack of equal access to information services and technologies. Moreover, women's voices are often absent in designing and provisioning information services and technologies. Increasing women's access to early warning systems and climate information services can empower them for informed decision-making in climate action. IAAT can increase women's access to existing early warning systems and climate information services, and build their capacity to use this information for climate change adaptation and mitigation decisions at their farms and communities.

6. Gender action plan

GAP Goal: Mobilization and utilization of project resources effectively and efficiently to tackle the current normative gender barriers, and biases, and contribute towards improved gender equality					
Impact Statement: Enhanced climate resilience of both women and men in farming households with improved capacity for climate change adaptation and mitigation					
Project Activities	Indicator & Targets Please note: T = Target, F = Females, M = Males	Timeline	Who Is Responsible	Responsibilities of GESI Advisor for SEAH	Cost (GCF)
Output 1.1 Improved technical capacity and inclusiveness of extension services in climate-smart agricultural and agroforestry production					
Activity 1.1.1 Build technical capacity and reach of extension services on CSA and agroforestry techniques	GESI Action: GESI considerations are incorporated into the implementation of technical capacity building of staff working in agriculture extension services During the kick-off and inception of the project, project staff and stakeholders to be trained in gender and disability inclusion to be able to communicate our approach and objectives effectively to project participants. Indicator: <i>% of women agriculture extension staff participate in technical capacity-building activities</i> Target: 500 extension staff including at least 50% women Gender outcome: Enhanced women extension staff and their capacity to reach a large number of women	Year 1 to Year 5 of the project	Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry	SEAH Action: Work with local government or authorities to sensitize community members on SEAH safeguarding Conduct SEAH awareness-raising within the communities Include SEAH awareness in traveling and training events	US\$ 82.153 The data collection of this indicator does not generate any additional cost as this outcome indicator will be measured during an already budgeted baseline, midline, and endline assessments ⁵⁵

⁵⁵ The GESI Lead will train data collection team and will support with analysis of the data to ensure accuracy in measuring women's representation.

	farmers in CSA capacity building and implementation				
Output 1.2: Increased use of climate-resilient practices in the production of CSA crops, livestock, and agroforestry by smallholder farmers					
Activity 1.2.1 Build awareness, capacity, community interest and field-level adoption of CSA techniques and agroforestry	<p>GESI Action: Conduct climate adaptation and opportunity assessment in communities which will consider gender-specific climate needs of women, girls, boys, men, people with disabilities, and Indigenous people</p> <p>Ensure training materials mainstream gender.</p> <p>Trainings scheduled around the availability of women and marginalized groups⁵⁶.</p> <p>Indicator: <i>% of women farmers, cooperative members, GAP-RU members, and CAC members trained</i></p> <p>Target: T: 172,680, M: 86,340 F: 86,340</p> <p>172,340 farmers trained, 50% of them women.</p> <p>1,310 cooperative members, 50% of whom are women, trained by cooperative managers (a subset of the total)</p> <p>19 emergency plans taking into account the needs and priorities of women and young people, drawn up and shared with the GAP-RU at the municipal level.</p> <p>704 GAP-RU members trained in roles and responsibilities, 50% of whom are women.</p>	Years 1 to 3 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	<p>SEAH Action:</p> <p>Execute extensive community consultation to understand the social issues that may further reinforce SEAH and identify measures to address the participation barriers.</p> <p>Conduct SEAH awareness-raising within the communities</p>	US\$ 1,411,504

⁵⁶ As part of our operations, SCI is committed to ensuring that all venues are accessible to people with disabilities to the best of our ability, taking into consideration the limitations within our target areas. We understand that poor infrastructure remains a challenge in rural areas and the circles where we operate. Therefore, our team will discuss possible adaptations and appropriate measures to provide all necessary support to ensure increased participation. This commitment is embedded in our country's strategy, which will include the implementation of the IAAT project activities.

	<p>627 CACs established and open to women and young people in project communes not covered by Albarka (with 1 CAC per village established) – 50% women involvement in CAC development</p> <p>Gender outcome: Adoption of CSA technologies and practices by large number of women farmers</p>				
Output 1.3: Increased land area under agroforestry					
Activity 1.3.1 Develop land-use mapping at the regional level	<p>GESI Action: Generates gender dis-aggregated land use map e.g. land ownership by gender.</p> <p>Indicator: <i>% of men and women with landownership</i></p> <p>Target: N/A</p> <p>Gender outcome: Use of gender-disaggregated land use maps to reach a large number of women farmers</p>	Year 2 to Year 3 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	NA	US\$ 78,659
Activity 1.3.2 Plant agroforestry trees on community and state-owned lands	<p>GESI Action:</p> <p>GESI considerations are incorporated in agroforestry need assessment</p> <p>Ensure training materials mainstream gender.</p> <p>Scheduling of training sessions will consider time availability, workload and accessibility for women and marginalized groups.</p> <p>Indicator: <i>% of women involved in agroforestry training and plantation</i></p> <p>Target:</p>	Year 2 to Year 5 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	<p>SEAH Action:</p> <p>Provide SEAH training to project stakeholders and communities.</p>	US\$ 495,268

	<p>Ensure 50% of women's participation in agroforestry plantation</p> <p>Ensure 50% of women's participation in agroforestry-related training.</p> <p>Gender outcome: A large number of women benefited from the improved agroforestry system i.e. increased women's access to fodder, grass, firewood, and non-timber forest products.</p>				
Activity 2.1.1 Support the creation of inclusive private sector value chains for key CSA/agroforestry crops and technologies	<p>GESI Action: GESI considerations are incorporated into the selected of women and girls supporting CSA/agroforestry crops and technologies</p> <p>Training modules must include gender-sensitive elements, including discussions on control of resources, with recommendations on how women, including young women, can increase their ownership and revenues by involving in the selected value chains.</p> <p>Indicator: <i>% of women/girls trained/supported by the IAAT project</i></p> <p>Target: 22,778 of which 50% were women and young people.</p> <p>Gender outcome: Increased participation of women in CSA and agroforestry product value chains and enhanced their income</p>	Year 1 to Year 4 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	<p>SEAH Action:</p> <p>Execute extensive community consultation to understand the social issues that may further reinforce SEAH and identify measures to address the participation barriers.</p> <p>Provide SEAH training to project stakeholders and communities.</p>	US\$ 149,633
Output 2.2: Smallholder farming communities, especially youth and women, can more easily overcome barriers to entrepreneurship in CSA and agribusiness.					

Activity 2.2.1 Support local financial institutions to increase access to finance for smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, for CSA/agroforestry investments	<p>GESI Action: GESI considerations are incorporated to support local financial institutions and farmers, for example, women-led VSLAs</p> <p>Training modules must include gender-sensitive elements to encourage participation of women-led local financial institutions</p> <p>Indicator: <i>% of women-led local financial institutions participated in the training and capacity building program</i></p> <p>Target: T: 18,000 F: 15,300 M: 2,700</p> <p>Gender outcome: Increased women's access to financial resources and investment capacity for climate change adaptation</p>	Year 2 to Year 4 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	<p>SEAH Action:</p> <p>Conduct SEAH awareness-raising within the communities and VSLAs</p>	US\$ 176,901
Activity 2.2.2 Enhance capabilities and connectivity of youth and women CSA/agribusiness entrepreneurs	<p>GESI Action: GESI considerations are incorporated into enhancing capacity and connectivity plans for CSA/agribusiness entrepreneurship</p> <p>Training modules must include gender-sensitive elements to encourage the participation of women and girls' capacity building trainings</p> <p>Trainings scheduled around the availability of women and girls</p> <p>Indicator: <i>% of women/girls participated in capacity-building training,</i> <i>% of women linked to local financial institutions,</i></p>	Year 2 to Year 4 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	<p>SEAH Action:</p> <p>Conduct SEAH awareness-raising within the communities and value chain actors</p>	US\$ 116,865

	<p><i>% of women linked to private sector service provider</i></p> <p>Target: 3,750 women entrepreneurs selected and trained in basic business skills, such as drawing up business plans and market research, including loan applications.</p> <p>5,250 youth and women entrepreneurs (50% women) linked to local financial institutions and private sector service providers.</p> <p>Gender outcome: Increased women's participation in agribusiness and entrepreneurship</p>				
Output 2.3: Increased adoption of climate-smart agriculture technologies by smallholder farmers					
Activity 2.3.1 Install and support the productive use of biodigester systems and solar irrigation systems amongst smallholder farmers	<p>GESI Action:</p> <p>GESI considerations are incorporated in the need and suitability assessment for biodigester and solar irrigation systems in the project locations</p> <p>Training modules must include gender-sensitive elements to encourage the active participation of women and girls, empowering them to adopt and benefit from biodigester and solar irrigation technologies</p> <p>Indicator: <i>% of women and girls participated in training events</i></p> <p><i>% of women benefited from the installation of solar and biodigester systems</i></p> <p>Target:</p>	Year 2 to Year 5 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	SEAH Action: Provide SEAH training to project stakeholders and communities	US\$ 435,475

	<p>1,000 solar irrigation systems installed and in operation (25% by female-headed households)</p> <p>5000 biogas systems installed and in operation (25% by female-headed households).</p> <p>1,000 groups of small farmers and 5,000 livestock breeders trained in the use of biodigesters and solar irrigation systems (50% women farmers)</p> <p>Gender outcome: Increased women's access to energy for irrigation and household use.</p>				
Component 3: Increasing Institutional Capacity and Knowledge					
Output 3.1: Increased institutional capacity in climate change adaptation and mitigation planning and best practices to address agriculture-related climate risks.					
Activity 3.1.1 Strengthen institutional capacity in localized climate change adaptation and mitigation planning	<p>GESI Action:</p> <p>GESI considerations are incorporated into the implementation of capacity strengthening activities, training materials mainstream gender aspects, lead on the assessment of institutional capacities to adopt gender-responsive actions</p> <p>Indicator: <i>% of women participation in institutional capacity building for localized climate change adaptation and mitigation planning</i></p> <p>Target: CACs operationalize and support Community Action Plans in 48 communes, ensuring 50% women's participation.</p>	Year 1 to Year 5 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	SEAH Action: Include SEAH awareness in traveling and training events	US\$ 147,326

	<p>58 PDESCs updated with climate change adaptation and mitigation related to CSA and agroforestry. Training on PDESCs preparation will include 50% women's participation.</p> <p>Gender outcome: Increased women's participation in climate change adaptation and mitigation planning</p>				
Activity 3.1.2 Technical capacity building of national climate funding institutions for disbursements management	<p>GESI Consideration:</p> <p>Capacity building for government officials on climate funding steps and tools will include key modules on the differential impacts of climate change on marginalized groups (especially women and people with disabilities)</p> <p>Provide targeted training to women, especially young women, in self-confidence, and communication skills to act as leaders in the national fora.</p> <p>Indicator: <i>% of women and girls participation in the technical capacity building trainings on climate finance.</i></p> <p>Target: Workshop participation and training on Mali Climate Fund opportunities and efficiencies, ensure 50% of women's participation.</p> <p>Gender outcome: Increased women/girls decision making capacity in climate funding.</p>	Year 1 to Year 5 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	<p>SEAH Action:</p> <p>Include SEAH awareness in traveling and training events</p>	US\$ 53,202

Output 3.2: Enhanced knowledge sharing and coordination of best practices in CSA and agroforestry across stakeholders.					
Activity 3.2.1 Enhanced convening and contribution to national databases for CSA and Agroforestry	<p>GESI Action: Generate gender-disaggregated information on CSA and agroforestry database.</p> <p>Gender outcome (long-term): Increased representation of women evidenced through use of gender-disaggregated information on CSA and agroforestry planning and funding</p>	Year 1 to Year 5 of the project	<p>Lead: Technical Advisor- GESI</p> <p>Support: MERL Advisor Technical advisor- CC Technical advisor – agriculture Technical advisor – forestry</p>	NA	US\$ 25,295

Note: % of target number of women participants/beneficiaries is based on the current Albarka project and consultation with key stakeholders in the project locations. This is the minimum level of target subjected to change after the baseline survey. IAAT prioritizes increasing the proportion of women and youth participation/beneficiaries across the project interventions. * Risk mitigation measures for Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) are included based on GCF's SEAH Risk Assessment Tool (decision B.BM-2021/18).

7. Gender Assessment in Project Implementation

IAAT will engage in further consultations with community members across all 12 circles during the project's initial planning phase. These consultations and in-depth gender assessment aim to ensure that the interests and needs of women, men, girls, and boys are fully integrated during the selection of the 48 communes. By applying an intersectionality analysis, the assessment will examine how different forms of marginalization—such as gender, education level, head of household status, marital status, disabilities, age, and other social factors—intersect and impact vulnerability. This approach will facilitate the identification and selection of IAAT beneficiaries and the prioritization of key interventions that address gender and climate change adaptation and mitigation needs. Additionally, the assessment will help address root causes of vulnerability, supporting more sustainable and impactful gender outcomes. This assessment will support to generate the baseline for gender integration in IAAT's activities, monitoring project outcomes during the project period and impact evaluation.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Mapping of sectors

Name of stakeholder	Type of stakeholder (partner, direct beneficiary, indirect beneficiary)	Profile of stakeholders	Consultation methodology	Consultation findings	Role in implementing the project, and/or consultation methodology and timetable	Comments
AEDD: gender unit	Partner	Technical partner	interview	Institutional support for the project Ensure gender mainstreaming and monitoring of the project	Ensure that gender is taken into account	
Ministry of Justice	Partner	Partner	Interview	Under formal legal codes, men and women are treated in the same way, no distinction is made, unlike customary codes which treat men and women differently. As for the expiation of wrongs and legal representation, it is the legal provisions that prevail, no distinction is made between men and women. Even though there is often discrimination against women, for example if a woman applies for a divorce, if the judge or magistrate is a man, he tends to incriminate the woman without trying to understand the reasons that led the woman to apply for a divorce ⁵⁷ . In this respect, it is also worth noting that formal legal codes straddle religious codes, so that when the woman concerned is a Muslim, for example, Islamic law prevails.	Advice on formal texts	
Regional Directorates for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family	Partner	Technical partner		Low involvement of women and young girls and boys in NR management mechanisms and frameworks	Support for gender mainstreaming in the IAAT project	All partnerships will be developed

⁵⁷ Source: Ministry of Justice

			Interview	<p>Confinement of women to reproductive and community roles and earlier than reproductive roles</p> <p>Women's access to land (small area) and limited control.</p>		<p>through agreements and or partnership or collaboration agreements .</p>
Regional Water and Forestry Directorates	Partner	Technical partner	Interview	<p>There are promising niches in the production of improved stoves and the processing and marketing of harvested products, which are the domain of women.</p>	<p>Support for the implementation of RNA actions, set-asides, identification of harvested products, production, processing and marketing of forest products. Capacity-building for women, girls and boys.</p>	
Regional Directorates of Agriculture	Partners	Technical partners	Interview	<p>There are few support projects for women in the agricultural sector, and those that do exist are one-off projects lasting between 3 and 4 months.</p> <p>The presence of women in market garden production, groundnuts, fonio, cowpeas and rice.</p> <p>There is potential in terms of developed land and opportunities for support and capacity-building for women in cultivation and market gardening techniques.</p> <p>Availability of agricultural agents to support women</p>	<p>Support for the development of market garden sites, support for agricultural inputs and capacity-building for market gardeners.</p>	

b.1 Customary chiefs / male community leaders	Partners and beneficiaries	Partners/ Beneficiaries Supporters and allies of women	Focus groups supplemented by individual interviews	<p>Socio-cultural constraints limit women's access to and control over resources and benefits, and determine the social division of labour. They also constitute constraints for women</p> <p>Women and men are treated differently by formal and informal legal codes.</p> <p>Women are rare in conflict prevention and management mechanisms and frameworks. Women have knowledge and experience of NR management as users and producers. Male leaders are allies and supporters of women.</p>	Support for community and women's mobilisation and awareness-raising	
b.2 Women community leaders / presidents of CAFOs and FENAFERs	Partners and beneficiaries	Partners/ Beneficiaries Supporters and allies of women	Individual interviews	<p>Are committed to protecting the environment through reforestation and market gardening. Key players in the processing and marketing of harvested produce, fish and milk. They are involved in raising small ruminants, poultry and often cattle.</p> <p>They are involved in conflict prevention and management. Despite this, they come up against socio-cultural constraints. Involved in capacity building for women</p>	Support for community and women's mobilisation and awareness-raising	
b.3 The Chambers of Agriculture	Partners and beneficiaries	Partners/ Beneficiaries Supporters and allies of women	Consultations	Involved in supporting and mobilising women	Advice support Support	

Appendix 2: List of interviewees⁵⁸

N°	First name	Name	Function	Structure	Region
1	Isae	COULIBALY	Head of Division	Regional Department for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family	Koulikoro
2	Daouda	TRAORÉ	Technical Advisor	Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family	Bamako
3	Mamadou	SOW	Documentalist / Archivist	Regional Budget Monitoring Committee	Ségou
4	Boureima	KOMNOTOUGO	Project manager	G- FORCE/Alabarka project	Mopti
5	Almahadi	Ag AKERATANE	Program Manager	Tassagh/Alabarka project	Gao
6	Goumar	ABOUBACRINE	Program Manager	ADICOM/ Albarka Project	Timbuktu
7	Mariama	TANGARA	Gender Officer	AEDD	Bamako

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