



# Productive Accompanying Measures to Safety Nets in the Sahel ASP Program: the case of Niger

Building Household Resilience  
through Productive Inclusion

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# Safety Nets in Niger

- National Safety Nets Program set-up in 2011 in the Office of the Prime Minister office
  - Establish a permanent safety nets system (rather than perpetuate ad hoc emergency response to crisis)
  - Covers all regions in Niger
  - Reached about ~1 million individuals by 2017
- Two main instruments:
  - Cash transfer program with accompanying measures
  - Cash-for-works program (public works)

# Cash Transfer Program

- Cash transfer program supports chronic poor and vulnerable households by providing regular income transfers and encourage investments in human capital.
- Monthly transfers of \$20 (10.000 FCFA) per month for 24 months (*Equivalent to 15% of poverty line*)
- Geographical selection of poorest communes, and proxy-means test to identify chronic poor households in selected villages
- Transfers are provided directly to women
  - In polygamous households transfers are given to first wife



# Niger: Cash Transfers + Accompanying Measures



- A “behavioral change component” (BCC, Volet Comportemental) seeks to foster behavioral changes among parents and encourage investments in young children’s human capital

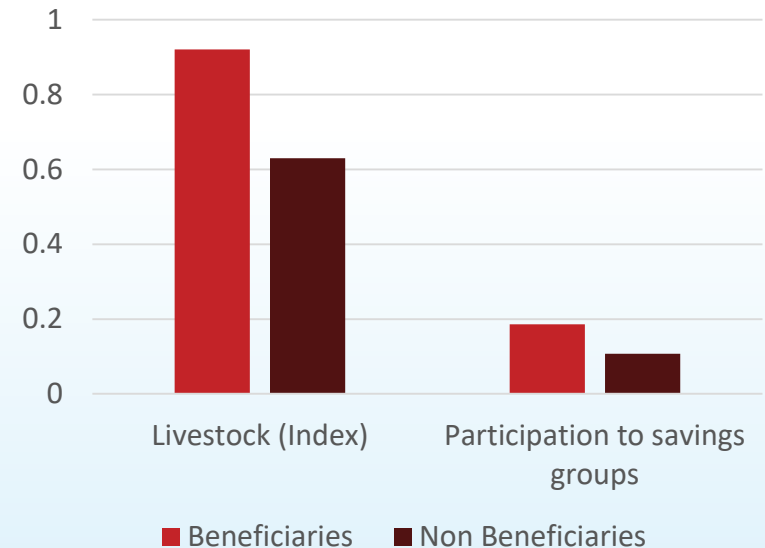


- “Productive Accompanying Measures” to encourage the formation of women’s groups and informal saving mechanisms
  - Seek to facilitate investments in income-generating activities and diversification

# In Niger, cash transfers + savings facilitation had sustained productive impacts 1.5 years after transfers ended

- Very poor beneficiary households take the opportunity to invest:
  - Investment in livestock: stock of animal increase by 50% (value= 62 000 FCFA, approximately 1/3 of transfers)
- Mostly in activities they are already engaged in:
  - Increases in agricultural productivity
  - No impacts on diversification in non-agricultural household enterprises
- Main mechanisms?
  - Participation in savings groups (tontines) remains stronger 18 months after the end of the transfers
  - Ability to invest in presence of risk or lumpy investments
- **Provided a basis to further strengthen productive accompanying measures**

Impacts on livestock and participation in savings group 18 months after the end of transfers



# Designing an Integrated Package of accompanying measures for Productive Inclusion through the Sahel ASP Program



# The Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program (ASPP)

- Objective: increase access to effective adaptive social protection systems for poor and vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.
- Funded by a Multi Donor Trust Fund Supported by DFID (£43m), AFD (EU6m) which complements a large bank IDA portfolio (US250m), and supports bank-executed technical assistance and analytical activities
- Time frame: 2014-2019.

Country	Project name	Number of beneficiaries	Government Funding	ASPP Funding	IDA/IBRD Funding
Burkina Faso	Social Safety Net Project	255,000	0	6	50
Chad	Chad Safety Nets Project	15,200 (households)	0	5	5
Mali	Emergency Safety Nets Project	450,000	0	10	70
Mauritania	Mauritania Social Safety Net System	25,000 (households)	10	4	15
Niger	Niger Safety Net Project	126,500 (households)	0	8.5	92.5
Senegal	Senegal Safety Net Operation	759,000	138	11.05	40.5

# How to design a comprehensive package of accompanying measures?

- **Collaborative effort**

- Between Sahel ASPP teams across countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal)
- Support from regional WB team and thematic experts

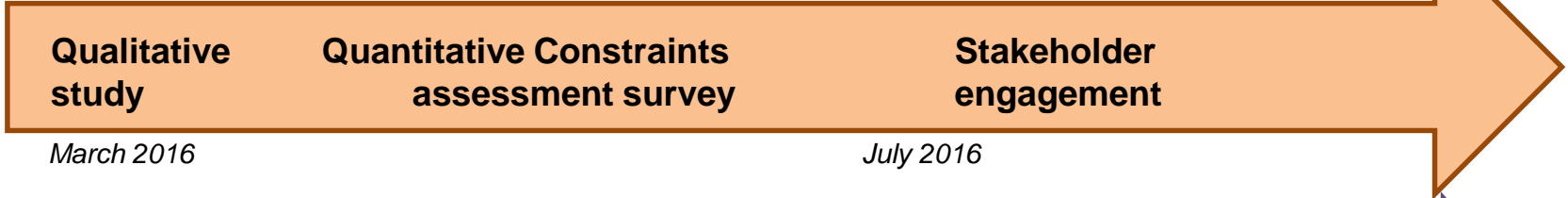
- **Multi-country impact evaluation**

- To assess impact and draw lessons

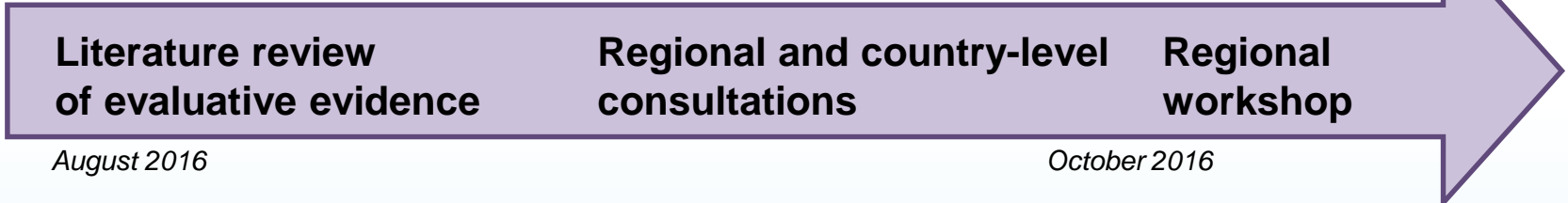


# Regional effort to design and learn from implementation of productive accompanying measures

## DIAGNOSTIC



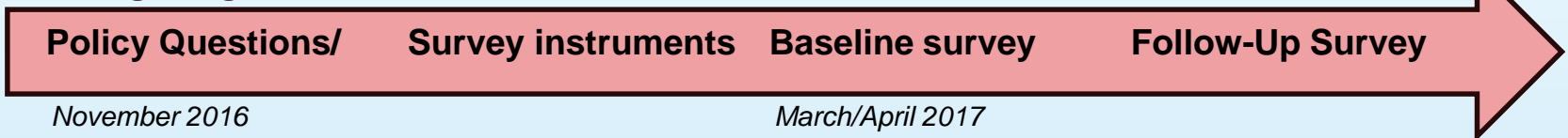
## DESIGN



## IMPLEMENTATION



## EVALUATION



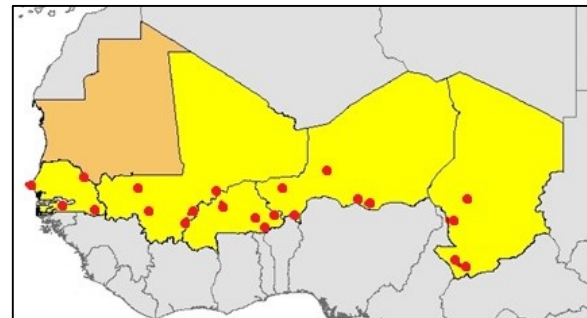
## Diagnostic and Analysis of constraints to more Productive Employment

### • Qualitative tools

- Toolkit used in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, adapted to assess constraints to more productive livelihoods for safety nets beneficiaries in the Sahel
- Focus groups + key informant interviews
- Contrasts: male//female; extreme poor//less poor; connected to//distant from markets
- Themes: quality of Income-generating activities, constraints to productivity, priorities for interventions
- Coverage: 5 countries

### • Quantitative tools

- Quantitative survey module with specialized quantitative tool to analyze constraints
- Coverage: 3 countries



**Consultations and Regional workshop to prioritize constraints and design productive accompanying measures based on local experience and studies**

## Diagnostic: Identification of constraints by country

**Substantial overlap in constraints by country, points to core cross-cutting issues to tackle across countries**

	BURKINA	MALI	MAURITANIA	NIGER	SENEGAL	CHAD
<b>Access to capital</b>	1	1	1	1	2	2
<b>Skills (technical and micro-entrepreneurship)</b>	2	3	2	3	3	4
<b>Access to markets</b>	4		4	5		3
<b>Access to inputs</b>	3	2	5			1
<b>Behaviors and aspirations</b>		4		4	1	5
<b>Social norms</b>	5			2	4	
<b>Others</b>		Risk management 5	Basic infrastructure 3		Cost of production factors (rent, utilities) 5	

## Design

### The ASPP package of accompanying measures (1)

#### 1. Creation of beneficiary groups and coaching

- Creation of beneficiary groups (if not existing already)
- Identification of coaches (community-level resource person) to accompany beneficiaries
  - Coaches facilitate mobilization
  - Coaches provide technical assistance to groups and individuals

#### 2. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA/AVEC)

- Adaptation of VSLA/AVEC model to integrate as part of safety nets programs.

#### 3. Community sensitization on aspirations and social norms

- Projection of a video documentary on individual successful with their productive investment
- 1-2 discussions on aspirations and inclusion with the whole community

## Design

### The ASPP package of accompanying measures (2)

#### 4. Life skills training

- Group-based, 7 half-days course, targeted to illiterate populations
- Addresses topics such as self-esteem and personal initiative, aspirations and social norms

#### 5. Microentrepreneurship training

- Group-based, 7 half-days course, targeted to illiterate populations
- Cross-cutting transferable skills to manage agricultural / non-agricultural activities
- Includes a simple planning tool for the use of the cash grant

#### 6. Cash grants

- One-off transfer of ~70% of yearly per capita consumption (80 000 FCFA)
- Delivered in cash to individual beneficiaries: flexibility and practicality

#### 7. Access to markets

- Facilitation of group-buying of inputs

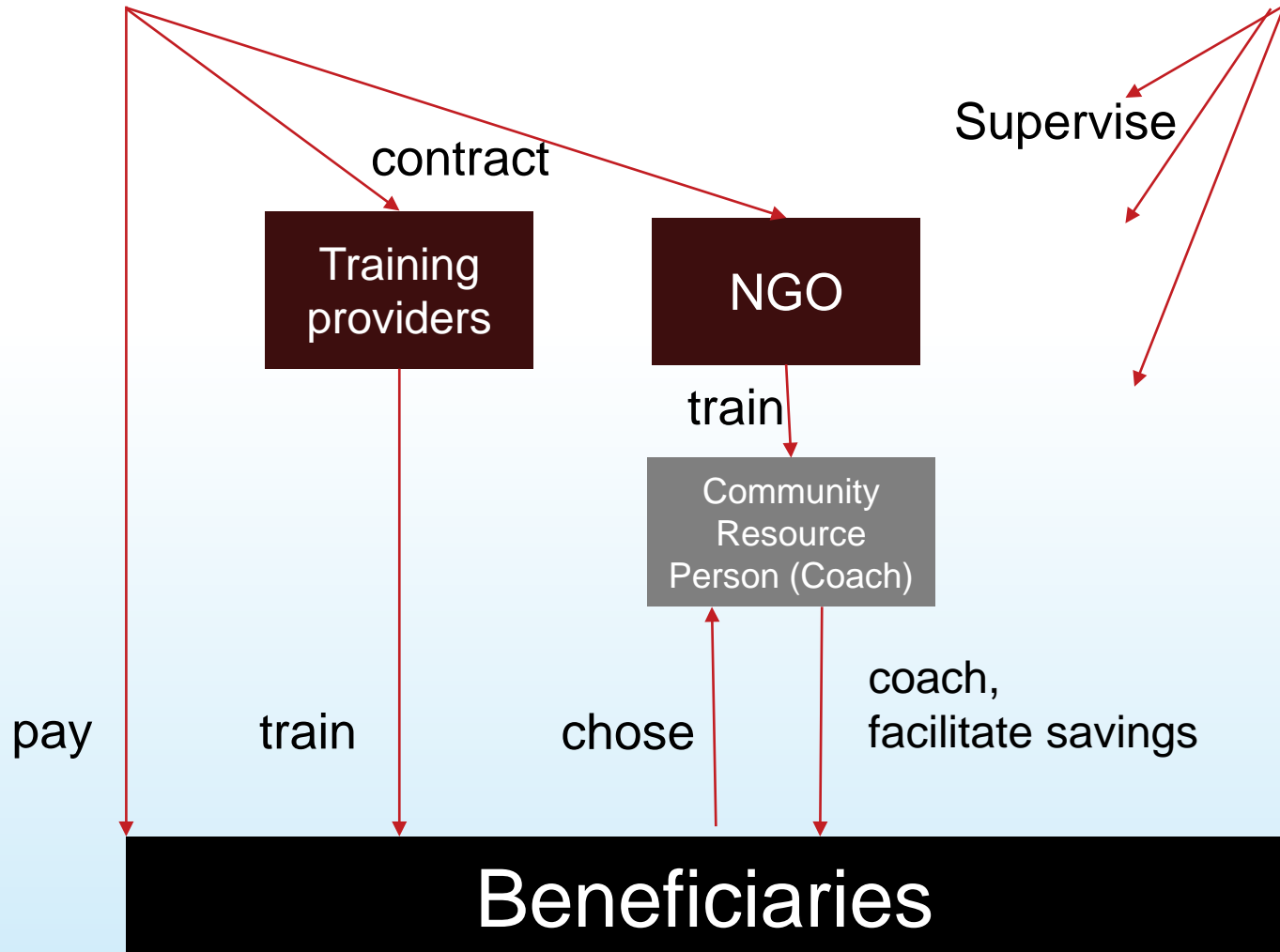
## Implementation/Delivery arrangements

- **Implementation modalities vary in each country. The regional ASPP activity provides technical assistance, facilitate development of tools and training of trainers**
- In Niger, the Safety Nets Unit includes a national office, offices in each region, and staff at the commune level (field operators).
- Field operators facilitate the selection of community-level resource people (coaches) by the communities, and train/supervise them.
- Community-level resource people facilitate savings group, coach beneficiaries and facilitate access to inputs.
- Community sensitizations are contracted to specialized facilitators
- Micro-entrepreneurship and life skills trainings are contracted to specialized NGOs/trainers
- Cash grants payments are performed through the payment system for the cash transfer program

# Delivery model in Niger

Cellule Filets Sociaux

Regional Antenna  
Communal Field Workers



Supervise

## Key Coverage/Delivery Parameters

- 17 communes
- 249 villages
- 15700 beneficiaries
- 28 Communal Field Workers
- 250 Community Resource People
- 6 facilitators for community sensitization
- 70 trainers for micro-entrepreneurship and life-skills training

## Multi-country Impact Evaluation (ongoing)

**Multi-country impact evaluation** ongoing in 4 countries (Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal).

**Objectives:** learning jointly about the effectiveness and optimal design of the productive package

### **Key Questions:**

#### **1. How effective is the package?**

- Measure value-added beyond providing cash transfers only

#### **2. Are psycho-social interventions needed to facilitate productive inclusion of poor households?**

- Measure value-added of package with and without community sensitization on social norms and life skills training

#### **3. What is the most cost-effective package?**

- Test with and without complementary cash grants

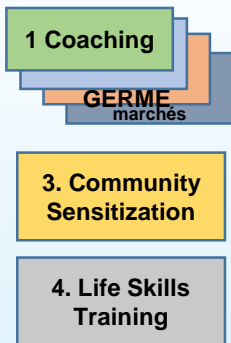


# Options being piloted and tested

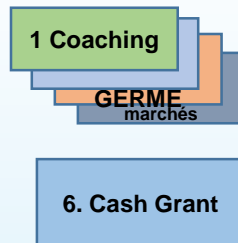
– all delivered to existing cash transfer beneficiaries



**T1: Social Package**  
(core measures+ psycho-social sensitization and training)



**T2: Capital Package**  
(Core measures+ cash grants)



**T3: Complete Package**  
(Core measures + psycho-social sensitization and training + cash grants)



**T0: Control without productive measures**  
(No accompanying measures)

