



REPUBLIC OF MALI
One People – One Goal – One Faith

SUMMARY PAPER

INITIATIVE FOR MDG ACHIEVEMENT IN THE 166 MOST VULNERABLE COUNCILS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME (PNSA)

April 2008

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

1. Midway through the time frame for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015, the ten-year national plan based on the MDGs indicates that Mali needs to make more efforts to come closer to the set goals.
2. Consequently, the Government of Mali wishes to seize the opportunity of the next Donor Round Table organized in Bamako, to present a voluntarist and targeted initiative to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs in the 166 councils of the National Food Security Programme (PNSA). The initiative will, by 2015, result in the MDG achievement for the 2 million inhabitants in the 2,855 villages of Mali that are most vulnerable to food crises.
3. This initiative is consistent with the Economic and Social Development Project (PDES), which is the programme of the President of the Republic, Amadou Toumani Touré, intended to reduce poverty and initiate economic and social development in Mali over the five years of his second term of office.
4. The initiative to accelerate the MDG achievement in the 166 councils most vulnerable to food crises in Mali is consistent with the five key principles of the Paris Declaration, namely national ownership, alignment on national programmes, harmonization with national systems and procedures, management for results, and mutual accountability.
5. This initiative, which is also consistent with the decentralization process started in Mali in 1992, will meet the principle of ownership by the beneficiary populations at the grassroots (council and village levels).
6. The initiative comes as a concrete response to the remark made by the General Secretariat of the United Nations that the African continent is lagging behind in the MDGs to be achieved by 2015, whereas our generation has an unprecedented opportunity to eradicate extreme poverty in the entire world by 2025.

II. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE INITIATIVE

7. The Economic and Social Development Project (PDES) defines a more voluntarist and ambitious development policy for Mali, aimed at accelerating the country's development during the second term of office of the President of the Republic. The PDES activities aim achieving the MDGs by 2015 and ensuring economic growth, investing in the education and health sectors, ensuring the integration of women and youths into the productive sectors, and developing the private sector. In the background, there are key consensual guidelines proposed by the vision of the Prospective Study Mali 2025.
8. In addition, Mali has made efforts to define its Ten-Year Plan based on the MDGs, which develops sector strategies that will be required to achieve the MDGs by 2015 and identifies the financial cost of such a plan.
9. The Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (GPRSP), the single medium-term reference framework over the 2007-2011 period for the Technical and Financial

Partners (TFP) of Mali, is in line with the objectives of the PDES and the Millennium Development Goals.

III IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK OF THE INITIATIVE

10. The initiative to accelerate the implementation of the Millennium Goals in the 166 councils in Mali most vulnerable to food crises will be implemented according to the systems and procedures of the National Food Security Programme National (PNSA), the national spatial programme which is part of the GPRSP.

A concrete and trans-sectoral approach to poverty

11. In 2003, a National Food Security Strategy included as one of the priorities of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) was prepared. Derived from the National Food Security Strategy, the National Food Security Programme (PNSA) generally aims at contributing towards defeating hunger and guaranteeing food security at the national level and in households in the long term at the economic and environmental levels. All the PNSA actions are aimed at social justice, while paying special attention to the livelihoods of women and poor rural households. The National Food Security Programme (PNSA) benefits from a human and material implementation framework through the Food Security Commission (CSA).

Intervention Area of the Initiative

12. The proposed initiative will concern the councils in Mali most vulnerable to food crises. These councils are selected within a permanent information framework that helps to forecast food crises, Early Warning System (SAP), comprising mainly Regions in the North of Mali (Tombouctou, Kidal, Gao, Mopti) Kayes Region, and some councils of Koulikoro and Ségou regions. All the villages of North Mali are concerned with this initiative.
13. In addition to their vulnerability to food crises, the 166 councils are lagging behind in the establishment of infrastructures that should enable them to achieve the MDGs. The infrastructures concern health (community health centres) education (schools, training centres, apprenticeship), access to drinking water, sanitation, and energy, (access to electricity).
14. These PNSA councils are affected by high migration of their populations, a phenomenon which in addition to its well-documented beneficial aspects, leads to the loss of strong hands in the council area, the destruction of the family fabric and greater difficulty in development programming. The impacts of emigration very often weigh on the women who, most cases illiterate, do not benefit from adequate health care but who bear family responsibilities during the prolonged absence of their husbands. Immigration and rural exodus also reduce the potential of households to assume their responsibilities (financial or in kind) in the implementation of development actions that concern them to achieve the MDGs.

Prerequisites for success of the initiative

15. For the success of the proposed initiative, the Government will need to ensure the optimal functioning of the legal and human framework that facilitates the implementation of development programmes. The partners will have to make more

efforts to honor the commitments made before the international community, and in particular comply with the undertaking to double development aid to Africa. The beneficiaries and local authorities will participate more effectively in the development of their councils and villages.

Institutional Implementation Framework

16. The initiative will be managed and supervised by the National Food Security Council chaired by the Prime Minister. The National Council already comprises most of the Ministries required for the implementation of an initiative that aims at achieving food security through the MDGs.
17. To ensure the implementation of the guidelines of the National Council, a Coordination and Monitoring Committee for Food Security Programmes, managed by the Commissioner for Food Security, is represented in the various regions, Bamako District, districts and councils. The entire programme will be coordinated and monitored by the Commission for Food Security through the National Technical Committee and the Regional Committees.

Implementation of the initiative

18. The actions to be carried out in each village during the five (5) years of the initiative will be scheduled through the council, which is the grassroots unit for development planning in Mali. The stakeholders of the initiative will be the farmers, professional organizations or village communities, who express and submit their priorities to the council for inclusion into the Local Economic and Social Development Plan.
19. The decentralized Government services and the private sector will provide support for the implementation of the initiative in the field. At the national and regional levels, the different sector technical departments responsible for the implementation of each sub-component of the initiative will prepare the annual programme of activities and determine the monitoring and evaluation indicators of the initiative. The sector departments will take decisions concerning capacity building and relevance of the required studies.

IV IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY OF THE INITIATIVE AT THE COUNCIL LEVEL

20. The initiative to accelerate the implementation of the Millennium Goals in the 166 councils in Mali most vulnerable to food crises is based on the implementation concept of the regional Millennium Villages project, implemented under the supervision of the United Nations Millennium Project. In Mali, the Millennium Villages Project is implemented in Dioro and Farakou Massa rural councils in the Ségou Rice Authority area in a cluster of 30 villages with a total of 55,000 inhabitants.
21. The Millennium Villages Project is based on a single powerful idea: “impoverished villages can transform themselves by 2015 if they are empowered with proven powerful practical technologies”. The commitment and participation of the

communities form the bedrock of the operation. This "bottom-up" approach produces results.

22. By providing innovative investments in health, food production, education, access to clean water and essential infrastructure, these community-led interventions will enable impoverished villages to escape extreme poverty. Once these communities have embarked on development, they can gain momentum autonomously on the path to economic growth.
23. It is a pilot approach based on the same observation made by the senior officials of Mali (and which led to the establishment of the PNSA), pointing to the need for a geographically-targeted multi-sector action to sustainably improve the situation of the most vulnerable populations. The initiative to accelerate achievement of the MDGs in the 166 councils in Mali most vulnerable to food crises will draw from this approach, with activities in the following areas:
 24. *Achievement of food security* through water control, management of soil fertility, intensification of plant production systems, diversification of production, as well as breeding of short cycle animals. Emphasis will also be laid on agro-forestry and community forestry.
 25. *Enhancement of Government efforts in education* in the 1st and 2nd cycles of basic education and in non-formal education. The enhancement will be mainly through the construction of schools and literacy centres, as well as through training.
 26. As regards *Health*, in addition to the construction of Community Health Centres, the priority operations will concern mother and child health and HIV/AIDS control, malaria and their prevention.
 27. *With respect to drinking water supply and sanitation*, the initiative to accelerate the implementation of the millennium goals in the 166 councils in Mali most vulnerable to food crises will install boreholes equipped with manual pumps, modern wells and well tanks, as well as Improved Village Water Systems (SHVA).
 28. Concerning the *Energy sector*, the development of domestic energy and rural electrification will be encouraged.
 29. Lastly, as regards *roads and transport*, efforts will be made to construct and maintain a rural road network with links within and between council areas, as well as interconnection with national roads.
 30. Activities prior to the implementation of the initiative will consist in the identification of difficulties and obstacles, as well as an assessment of needs (goods, services and infrastructures) to achieve the MDG through intervention pillars by defining the goals to be attained and the resources required to attain them.
 31. The monitoring and evaluation of the initiative will consist in generating reliable information on the implementation of the initiative and measuring the impact of the activities carried out in terms of the indicators defined by the Government technical services. The monitoring and evaluation will concern evaluation of activities in terms of quantity and quality.

V FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK: ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND

32. It is proposed that a multi-donor trust fund be established to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs in the councils most vulnerable to food crises.
33. The specificity of the fund will be its flexibility and ability to effectively mobilize the pledges of grants made during the Round Table.
34. The trust fund to accelerate achievement of the MDGs is a mechanism that would enable the Government to cover the requirements for implementation of the initiative to accelerate MDG achievement in the 166 most vulnerable councils in Mali in terms of food security.
35. It is proposed that the fund be administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and implemented by the country in accordance with the national rules and procedures. Funds will be disbursed periodically on the basis of requests made to the UNDP by the Ministry of Finance.
36. The delegated financial ownership agreement already concluded between the CSA and ANICT will be used to convey the funds to the councils under the decentralization process. The implementation of some activities of the initiative such as the establishment of a benchmark situation for food insecurity and poverty, the development and equipment of irrigation areas, the intensification of production, the establishment of diversification units, and the establishment of a regional coordination unit. A supplementary agreement should facilitate the conveyance by ANICT of the funds required for financing the infrastructures and operating costs at the council level.

V. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE:

37. The participation in development, through the MDGs, by each of the stakeholders of the initiative and in accordance with the financing strategy of the Ten-Year MDG Plan was broken down as follows: 10% households, 35% Government and 55% TFPS¹.
38. In all, during the donor round table, technical and financial partners will be requested to provide financial support of about CFAF 386 billion (US\$ 773 million) for the five (5) years of the initiative, with an average annual contribution of CFAF 77 billion (US\$ 155 million).
39. The Government will be requested to provide CFAF 246 billion (US\$ 492 million) for the five (5) years of the initiative, with an average annual contribution of CFAF 49 billion (US\$ 98 million).
40. The Government of Mali could make the commitment to allocate to this initiative resources obtained under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC Fund).

¹ This breakdown takes into account the distribution in the Ten-Year MDG Plan for 2015 and the conclusions of the consultant's discussions with the PRSP experts and those of the Millennium Villages.

SUMMARY TABLE OF REQUIREMENTS

Stake-holders	Amount in CFAF Billion	Amount in US\$ Million US\$ 1= CFAF 500	Average Annual Contribution in CFAF Billion	Average Annual Contribution in US\$ Million	Percentage
Government	246	492	49	98	35%
Financiers	386	773	77	155	55%
Households	70	140	14	28	10%
Total Amount	703	1 405	140	281	100%