



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

IMPACT EVALUATION AND QUANTITATIVE POPULATION-BASED SURVEYS FOR USAID/MALI'S FEED THE FUTURE (FTF) CEREAL VALUE CHAIN (CVC) ACTIVITY

**Contract Number: AID-688-C-14-00001
COR: Mr. Abdrahamane Dicko**

QUARTERLY REPORT 4

January 2015 – March 2015

VERSION HISTORY

Version #	Developed by	Date	Description
1.0	IOS Partners, Inc.	April 10, 2015	Final Version

Table of Contents

APPROVAL.....4
REMARKS AND OBSERVATIONS (if any):4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....5
DISCLAIMER.....5
LIST OF ACRONYMS6
1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY7
2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS FOR QUARTER 4.....9
3. KEY ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD 10
4. SUBMITTED DELIVERABLES 15
5. CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES 16
6. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES 17
7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS..... 18
ANNEXES..... 19

List of Figures

Figure 1 – Project Gantt Chart 14
Figure 2 –Activities to be held during quarter five of project timeline..... 18

List of Tables

Table 1 - Potential Challenges and Mitigation Strategies..... 16

APPROVAL

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that we have reviewed the Fourth Quarterly Report presented in this document for *the Impact Evaluation and Quantitative Population-Based Surveys of USAID/Mali's Feed the Future (FTF) Cereal Value Chain (CVC) Activity* and hereby provide our approval.

Signature:

Date:

Print Name:

Title:

Role:

REMARKS AND OBSERVATIONS (if any):

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document was prepared by the team led by **IOS Partners, Inc.**, an international economic development consultancy firm, together with **Cultural Practice LLC (CP)**, **IOD PARC (IOD)**, **CARI-SARL** and **AFAR-TCT** for the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Mali**. This document presents progress achieved during the reporting period and intends to serve as an important planning and coordination tool for the ongoing effort to provide the consulting services for ***Impact Evaluation and Quantitative Population-Based Surveys for USAID/Mali's Feed the Future (FTF) Cereal Value Chain (CVC) Activity***. The Project has been funded by the USAID.

We would like to express our appreciation for the excellent collaboration and facilitation of project documents and meetings, which we received from the staff of **USAID/Mali**, **USAID Mali's Monitoring and Evaluation Accelerated Economic Growth Team**, **the Government of Mali**, and the CVC Activity implementer – **the ACDI/VOCA team**.

DISCLAIMER

The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this document are entirely those of the authors and should not be attributed in any manner to the United States Agency for International Development. The United States Agency for International Development does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this document nor does it accept responsibility for any consequence of its use.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACDI/VOCA	Agriculture Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
COP	Chief of Party
CVC	Cereal Value Chain
FTF	Feed The Future
G FORCE	Groupe de Formation Consultation et Etudes
ICRAF	Centre International de Recherche en Agroforesterie
IICEM	Initiatives Intégrées pour la Croissance Economique au Mali
INSTAT	Institut National de la Statistique
IR	Immediate Results
LVC	Livestock Value Chain
PBS	Population Based Survey
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

Program Name:	Impact Evaluation and Quantitative Population-Based Surveys for USAID/Mali’s Feed the Future (FTF) Cereal Value Chain (CVC) Activity
Activity Start Date and End Date:	March 7, 2014 – March 7, 2019
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	IOS Partners, Inc.
Contract/Agreement Number:	AID -688 -C-14- 00001
Name of Subcontractors/Subawardees:	Cultural Practice LLC (CP), IOD PARC (IOD), CARI-SARL and AFAR-TCT
Major Counterpart Organizations:	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Mali
Geographic Coverage (cities and or countries):	Bamako, Mali
Reporting Period:	January – March 2015

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The project for **Impact Evaluation and Quantitative Population-Based Surveys for USAID/Mali’s Feed the Future (FTF) Cereal Value Chain (CVC) Activity** aims to: **a) undertake an impact evaluation of the CVC Activity;** and **b) conduct statistically representative population based surveys (PBS)** for the indicators within the broader FTF initiative in Mali. These activities will provide information and data to support future programmatic decisions and help meet Mali’s FTF reporting requirements. This intervention will capture the value of USAID’s investments in Mali and assess the effectiveness of USAID’s value chain approach as a driver for inclusive economic development, allowing for more effective resource allocation and better targeted management decisions.

The FTF strategy in Mali uses a value chain approach to increase economic opportunities and focuses development interventions on three core value chains: sorghum/millet, rice, and livestock. These three value chains are key to Mali’s development and overall food security as the majority of the population relies directly upon these staple foods for their livelihood and food security.

FTF has an overall goal of sustainably reducing global poverty and hunger. This goal will be achieved through two inter-related objectives of (1) inclusive agriculture growth, and (2) improved nutritional status, especially of women and children. The following are the Immediate Results (IRs) that USAID/Mali has identified to be necessary for achieving these objectives and overall FTF goal.

Objective 1: Inclusive Agriculture Growth

IR 1: Improved Agricultural Productivity

IR 2: Expanding Markets and Trade

IR 3: Increased Private Sector Investment in Agriculture and Nutrition Related Activities

IR 4: Increased Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Households (also contributes to objective 2)

Objective 2: Improved Nutritional Status, Especially of Women and Children

IR 1: Increased Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Households
IR 2: Improved Access to Diverse and Quality Foods
IR 3: Improved Nutrition Related Behavior
IR 4: Increased Utilization of High Impact Services and Healthy Behaviors

There are two main projects under the FTF initiative: the Cereal Value Chain (CVC) Project and the Livestock Value Chain (LVC) Project.

IOS Partners is responsible for the impact evaluation of the Cereal Value Chain project (CVC). The CVC Project is a five-year initiative that aims to sustainably reduce poverty and hunger in target intervention areas. The CVC will promote the integrated, women-empowering, and inclusive development of the sorghum/millet and rice value chains and will contribute to strengthening resilience of vulnerable communities and populations. The project is composed of a core award – called “CVC Activity” – fashioned after the previous USAID IICEM project as well as complementary value chain interventions.

The CVC Activity focuses on key interventions necessary for value chain integration and competitiveness such as production, research and technology dissemination, marketing, processing, trade, finance, capacity building and elements of policy reform. Key aspects of the implementation approach include:

- Capacity building across an array of business development services and agricultural production skills;
- Strengthening of relationships among value chain actors and support services and assisted coordination; and
- Facilitation of the value chain approach for other interventions implemented by other implementers under the broader CVC Project, and promoting an enabling environment necessary for long-term competitiveness.

CVC Activity’s mandate is to target up to 113 FTF communes in Sikasso, Ségou, Mopti and Timbuktu. In Sikasso and Mopti, CVC Activity project began its activities in those communes closest to the regional capitals. In Ségou, CVC Activity’s implementer ACDI/VOCA, together with G-FORCE and Nyeta Conseils, have worked in Ségou, Sikasso and Mopti.

Activities in northern Mopti and Timbuktu will be timed to begin once the security situation permits.

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS FOR QUARTER 4

This quarterly report aims to provide a description of the activities that IOS Partners conducted in the period January to March 2015.

The fourth quarter of year 1 for this project primarily revolved around the finalization of several deliverables to USAID (PBS Report, Impact Evaluation Plan and 2015 Annual Work Plan) and the development of the survey tools for the impact evaluation to take place in 2015.

This quarter was also marked by the close collaboration, through information sharing and regular open discussions, between IOS Partners’ team and key project stakeholders, such as ACDI/VOCA, USAID and USAID Partners working on other projects under the Feed the Future umbrella.

A general summary of the activities that took place in Quarter four is found below:

January 2015	February 2015	March 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Submission and approval of Quarterly Report 3 and related trip reports. •Finalization and resubmission of the Impact Evaluation Plan. •Finalization and resubmission of the PBS Report. •Submission of key personnel changes and STTA extension requests to USAID for IOS staff (change in key personnel approved March 27th, 2015, other requests are still awaiting approval). •USAID partners meeting with all FTF stakeholders in Mali and presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Submission of the 2015 Annual Workplan and budget (pending approval from USAID). •Development of impact evaluation and qualitative evaluation tools. •Internal IOS assessment of the 2014 PBS questionnaires and survey tools. Modification of questionnaire for PBS mid-term survey in 2016. •Exchange of information with ICRAF regarding PBS tools and commune sample size and clusters used. •Revision of PBS Report following receipt of additional USAID comments. •Request to USAID to add Mr. Yacob Zereyesus to the survey team (request still pending approval) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Resubmission of the PBS Report and matrix taking into account USAID comments (pending approval from USAID). •Introductory discussions held with ACDI/VOCA to analyze the possibility of implementing the impact evaluation by setting aside certain number of communes for the treatment and control groups. •Meeting with CVC staff to determine communes for the treatment and control groups. •Identification of stakeholder groups by category to be surveyed for the impact evaluation and qualitative evaluation. •Development of questionnaires for each group of stakeholders. •New IOS administrative procedures put into place.

3. KEY ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

➤ **Submission of the Third Quarterly Report**

The Third Quarterly Report, summarizing the principal activities that had occurred between October and December 2014, was submitted on January 8th, 2015 to USAID and was formally approved by USAID on February 2nd, 2015.

➤ **Finalization of the Impact Evaluation Plan & Agreement with ACDI/VOCA**

IOS Partners received additional comments and questions from USAID on the Impact Evaluation Plan on December 19th, 2014. The team made it its priority to address these questions and comments in order to advance with the actual impact evaluation activities as soon as possible. The revised Impact Evaluation Plan was submitted to USAID on January 14th, 2015 and is pending final approval.

The Impact Evaluation Plan highlighted the need for IOS to discuss with the CVC Project implementer and USAID, and agree upon the following:

- i. The expected increase in gains for each of the chosen indicators for the impact evaluation;
- ii. The selection of communes to be used for the treatment and control groups.

In March, USAID shared the Impact Evaluation Plan with ACDI/VOCA and requested the assistance of CVC Activity project’s COP and his team to read the document and collaborate with IOS in order to be able to come to an agreement on the two aforementioned points.

After several discussions between IOS and ACDI/VOCA in late March, both parties were able to come to an agreement on the selection of communes to be used for the treatment and control groups. A formal agreement on the discussions was signed by Mr. Pedro Souss (IOS’ Chief of Party) and Mr. Willem Van Campen (ACDI/VOCA’s Chief of Party) on April 3rd, 2015 (See Annex A).

The principal points of this agreement include the following:

1. Out of the 113 potential CVC communes, 60 have not yet been touched by CVC Activity project’s activities. 20 will be set aside by ACDI/VOCA in Sikasso and Mopti and remain untouched until the last year of the evaluation period. These 20 will form part of the control group and will be selected as randomly as possible.
2. The primary measure for the impact evaluation will be the Gross Margin indicator, which is expected to increase for the 4 chosen crop types as follows:

Gross margin per hectare	Yr2 -Yr4 Growth
Millet	29%
Sorghum	29%
PIV rice	31%
Lowland rice	11%

3. For the other indicators, ACDI/VOCA will work with IOS to come up with expected increases so that IOS can begin calculating sample sizes for the study.

Taking into account the main points of this agreement, IOS will apply the modifications to the revised Impact Evaluation Plan.

➤ **Finalization and re-submission of the PBS Report**

In addition to receiving comments from USAID on the Impact Evaluation Plan, IOS also received comments and questions from USAID on the PBS Report.

The IOS team addressed these comments and questions in a matrix of questions and answers and made the necessary changes to the PBS Report. A second version of the report was submitted to USAID on January 15th, 2015.

A second set of questions and comments were provided by USAID in February, to which IOS addressed and provided its responses in a matrix. A third version of the PBS Report was submitted to USAID on March 17th, 2015 and IOS is currently awaiting further comments/approval from USAID.

➤ **Submission of key personnel changes and STTA extension requests to USAID for IOS staff**

In January 2015, IOS submitted several requests to USAID with regards to personnel changes and short-term technical assistance extension requests. These included the following requests:

1. To make Mr. Pedro Souss the permanent Chief of Party of the project (already approved by USAID);
2. To approve Ms. Adizatou Maiga as a key personnel of the project team (already approved by USAID);
3. To add Mr. Yacob Zereyesus to the project team as a survey analyst/statistician providing STTA (awaiting approval);
4. To extend the level of effort (LOE) for some of our current STTA team, including increasing the amount of days for Ms. Emily Andrews, Mr. Robert Hans, Mr. Jean-Marc Bourreau, Ms. Tea Alania, Ms. Masa Cosic and Mr. Sebastian Rossiter (all awaiting approval).

➤ **Development of the 2015 Work plan and budget**

IOS Partners submitted on February 19th its Annual Work Plan and budget for 2015. This deliverable provided an overview of the principal project activities to be held in 2015. Its main focus revolved around the impact evaluation by expanding on the quantitative and qualitative impact evaluation data collection activities.

The report included the following key sections:

- A. Deliverables to be submitted in 2015
- B. List of staff and personnel to be involved in project activities in 2015
- C. Detailed work schedule (GANTT chart)
- D. Projected Budget (showing direct and indirect project costs and fee)
- E. Key challenges and assumptions
- F. Overview of project activities for 2015 to 2019

IOS uses this work plan as a general guideline to follow throughout the year as part of its project management procedures.

➤ **USAID partners' meeting with all FTF stakeholders in January and presentation**

Mr. Oumar Malé and Ms. Adizatou Maiga attended the USAID partners meeting at the end of January. The aim of this meeting was to share information between all the FTF projects currently being implemented in Mali as well as creating synergy among the various stakeholders. IOS Partners presented the preliminary results of the PBS Survey conducted in 2014. The presentation (see Annex B) sparked interest from a few actors in the room who subsequently requested to have more information on the results obtained from the study.

USAID now aims to host these quarterly meetings in various areas covered by FTF and so possible field trips may be organized in the future to attend these events.

➤ **Internal IOS assessment of the 2014 PBS questionnaires and survey tools. And modification of questionnaire for PBS mid-term survey in 2016**

As a measure to prepare in advance for the PBS activities to be held in 2016, the IOS team has been analyzing the main issues and problems that had occurred during the baseline PBS survey and has attempted to mitigate these so that for the mid-term PBS survey, time, effort and resources spent are used more efficiently.

One example of this has been an attempt to shorten the questionnaire and remove the questions that were deemed inappropriate or unanswerable during the baseline survey.

➤ **Development of quantitative and qualitative impact evaluation tools**

Throughout this quarter, the evaluation team has been working on the elaboration of the impact evaluation survey and qualitative evaluation survey tools.

Specifically, a questionnaire and an interview guide have been created for stakeholder groups involved in the CVC Activity project for millet, sorghum and rice crops, such as producers and their cooperatives, individual producers, suppliers of inputs and farm equipment, grain traders and processors. Questionnaires have been developed on the basis of the main indicators of change sought, such as Gross Margin.

In order to have a better understanding of the groups of people that will be surveyed, IOS has held several meetings with ACDI/VOCA to discuss the actors within the selected communes for both the treatment and control groups. This has helped IOS to come up with more relevant and accurate survey tools for each of the actors that are planned to be surveyed.

➤ **Exchange of information with ICRAF regarding PBS tools, sample size for communes and clusters used**

Following the USAID Partners Meeting, ICRAF has requested IOS Partners to share its PBS Report in addition to any information we could provide them on the villages and communes surveyed as well as the survey tools used to obtain the information reported. Since the PBS Report has yet to be formally approved, the PBS Report itself has not been shared with ICRAF. However, IOS has shared the list of communes in addition to the collection tools and INSTAT sample size information.

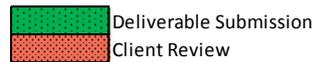
➤ **New administrative procedure put into place**

In an effort to maximize efficiency with regards to IOS's financials and administration for this project, IOS has been implementing several new procedures in the last few months, some of which are summarized as follows:

1. New timesheet software to be used on a monthly basis: each member of the IOS team working on the project must now document his/her time worked every month through an online user-friendly software package. This has reduced the amount of time spent at the end of the month to fill in and approve timesheets. The software also has automatic interface to the QuickBooks timesheet entries.
2. QuickBooks – As part of the improvement of administrative procedures, all general journal entries related to the Mali office and this project will be entered into the system on-site and will be accessible from IOS' head office.

The following Gantt chart shows the timeline at which the activities have taken place.

Figure 1 – Project Gantt Chart



Task Name	Weeks											
	January				February				March			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Submission of Third Quarterly Report	Deliverable Submission											
Finalization and resubmission of the Impact Evaluation Plan		Deliverable Submission										
Finalization and resubmission of the PBS Report			Deliverable Submission									
Submission of key personnel changes and STTA extension requests to USAID			Client Review									
USAID partners meeting with all FTF stakeholders in Mali				Client Review								
Submission of the 2015 Annual Work Plan and Budget						Deliverable Submission						
Development of impact evaluation and qualitative evaluation tools					Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
Internal IOS assessment of the 2014 PBS questionnaires and survey tools.					Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
Modification of questionnaire for PBS mid-term survey in 2016					Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
Exchange of information with ICRAF regarding PBS tools and commune sample size and clusters used.						Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
USAID comments on PBS report								Client Review				
Revision of PBS Report								Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
Resubmission of PBS report and matrix of USAID questions and IOS answers										Deliverable Submission		
Request to USAID to add Mr. Yacob Zereyesus									Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
Introductory discussions held with ACDI/VOCA to analyze the possibility of implementing the impact evaluation by setting aside certain number of communes for the treatment and control groups.									Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
Meeting with CVC staff to determine communes for the treatment and control groups.									Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
Identification of stakeholder groups by category to be surveyed for the impact evaluation and qualitative evaluation.									Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
Development of questionnaires for each group of stakeholders.									Client Review	Client Review	Client Review	Client Review
New IOS administrative procedures put into place.										Client Review	Client Review	Client Review

4. SUBMITTED DELIVERABLES

➤ **Third Quarterly Report**

The Third Quarterly Report, along with the accompanying trip reports, was submitted on January 8th, 2015 and approved by USAID.

➤ **Impact Evaluation Plan**

The revised version of the Impact Evaluation Plan was submitted in January. Following the recent in-depth discussions between IOS Partners and ACDI/VOCA on the impact evaluation activities and specifically on the need to set aside some communes for the control group, the Impact Evaluation Plan will be revised once again by IOS Partners to incorporate the points highlighted in the ACDI/VOCA-IOS Partners signed agreement. IOS will then submit a revised version of the Impact Evaluation Plan to USAID.

➤ **PBS Baseline Data Collection Report**

IOS Partners has responded to USAID's comments on the PBS Report, answering USAID's questions, clarifying doubts and improving the layout of the report so that it is easier to read.

We are waiting for further comments/approval from USAID at this point in time.

➤ **2015 Annual Work Plan and Budget**

The Annual Work Plan for 2015 was submitted by IOS in February 2015 and we are still awaiting comments/approval from USAID.

5. CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The following table presents the major challenges faced by the project team during the last quarter and respective strategies to mitigate these challenges in the future.

Table 1 - Potential Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

Challenge	Changes in the security situation: the terrorist attack that took place at Le Terrace at the beginning of March 2015 still highlights the numerous safety and security issues in Mali (Bamako as well as other regions), which pose a possible threat to the project staff.
Solution	Given the recent security concerns in Mali, the oversight teams and the local experts evaluate evolving security issues as necessary, including communicating with implementers to ensure that safety is a priority.
Challenge	Ebola virus threat
Solution	The last case of the Ebola virus was in December and no new cases have been reported since then. In the case of Ebola arriving in Mali once again, appropriate safety and security measures will be taken once again.
Challenge	Selection of treatment and counterfactual groups for the impact evaluation
Solution	In order to accurately perform an impact evaluation as defined, USAID, ACDI/VOCA and IOS Partners have agreed on the treatment group and control group for the impact evaluation. They must ensure both are well-defined. The control group must be one where the communes chosen have remained unaffected by CVC Activity project's activities at least until year 5, while the treatment group has been involved in CVC Activity project's activities as of year 1 of the project.
Challenge	Recent changes in visa regulations to enter Mali: visas can no longer be obtained upon arrival.
Solution	After one unexpected experience with our staff with the immigration office at Bamako airport, IOS Partners will ensure all its project staff has obtained visa prior to traveling to Mali.

6. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES AND USAID FORWARD PRIORITIES

➤ Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

Ms. Adizatou Maiga, the local Monitoring & Evaluation expert, has been a key figure during the development of the PBS Report and the preparation of the evaluation survey tools since October 2014. Her vast experience working with NGOs in Mali and her large amount of contacts and knowledge of the local context will prove vital during the initiation and implementation of the impact evaluation among the various communes in 2015. This is the reason for which IOS had requested USAID to approve her as part of the key personnel Mali team rather than simply providing short-term technical assistance.

Ms. Emily Andrews, the senior Evaluator of the team, continues to provide valuable input to the impact evaluation methodology. Her presence and leadership during the talks with ACIDI/VOCA have enabled IOS to reach an agreement where 20 communes will be set aside by ACIDI/VOCA to be used as the control group for the impact evaluation.

Continuous contributions from Ms. Tea Alania and Ms. Masa Cosic have provided crucial support in the form of quality control and backstopping. They also bring vital knowledge in the field of data management, administration, finance and project management.

➤ Local Capacity Development

The local staff were able to benefit from occasional training in evaluation methodologies. During the past quarter, the staff have been able to increase their capacities on both quantitative and qualitative survey work by contributing to the development of the survey tools. Their collaboration with our Senior Evaluation Expert has helped to raise their knowledge of evaluation methodologies in the field.

In addition, our local administration/financial officer has benefitted from training in the use of accounting software (QuickBooks).

7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

The principal activities that will be undertaken for the next quarter and a timeframe of their implementation from April to June 2015 are presented below.

The impact evaluation survey is planned to take place towards the end of 2015 so preparations are currently underway to ensure all survey instruments are ready.

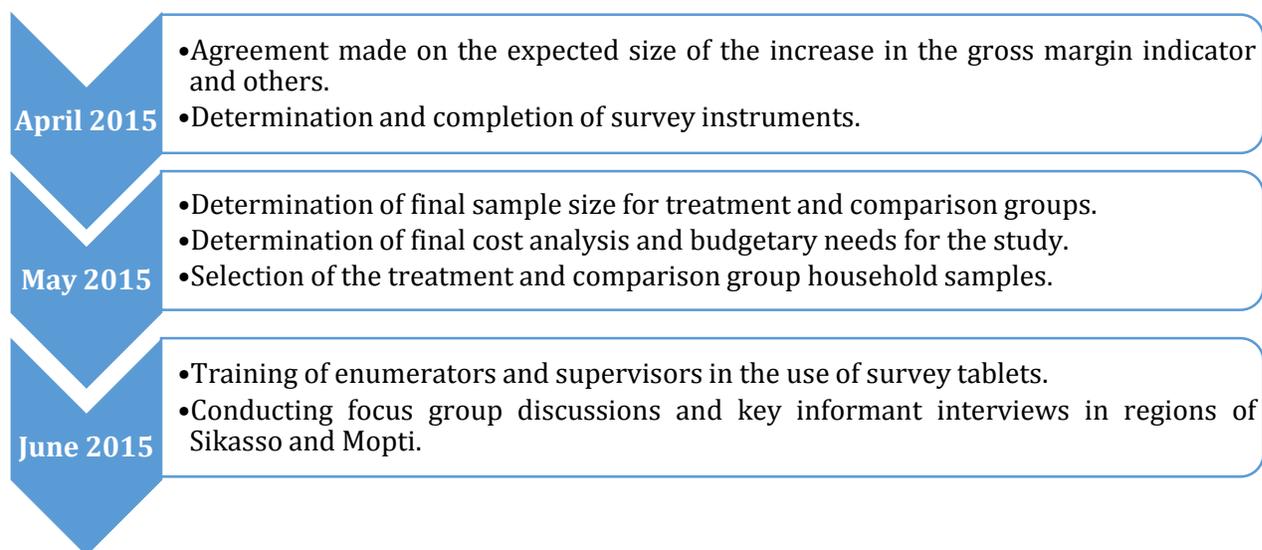
IOS' next steps with regards to the impact evaluation involve the following:

1. Inform USAID of the proposed approach and agreement reached between CVC and IOS Partners, Inc. as outlined in this document;
2. Schedule meetings with CVC Activity's and IOS Partners' teams to select and prepare a list of communes for the treatment and comparison groups;
3. Define final expected size of the impact of agreed upon indicators selected for impact evaluation and discuss estimates by farmer households and other indicators for the other variables of interest, i.e. loans received; and cereal consumption;
4. Calculate sample sizes needed for a survey based on the number of clusters (province, commune) and the number of households per cluster. This will determine how many communes need to be reserved for the comparison group. In addition, the IOS statistician shall also determine how disaggregated the sample design should be in terms of crop types.

In addition, preparations for the qualitative evaluation activities (focus group discussions and interviews) will take place this quarter.

The figure below summarizes the process that the evaluation team will follow in the next quarter of 2015 to prepare for the impact evaluation baseline survey.

Figure 2 –Activities to be held during quarter five of project timeline



ANNEXES

A. ACDI/VOCA and IOS Partners' signed agreement

B. USAID Partners Meeting Report in January 2015 and Presentation

1. DATE

January 30th, 2015

2. PARTICIPANTS

From IOS Partners:

- Oumar MALE DCOP, IOS Partners
- Adizatou M MAIGA M&E Expert, IOS Partners

3. LOCATION

The meeting took place in the “Latrigue” conference room of the US Embassy in Bamako Mali.

4. SCOPE AND ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The meeting began with Mr. Gary Juste, the Mission Director, presenting all the participants. He then expressed USAID’s satisfaction of the FTF project achievements in Mali despite the tension in the country. He mentioned that Mali would benefit from an increase in aid.

Mr. David Yangen, the USAID EG Office Director: The FTF program originated after the 2007-2008 food crisis. The program was launched in 2008 after a G8 meeting attended by Obama. It was necessary to invest in food security and FTF was key to this. We have to ensure tangible progress for the last 2 years of his term as it will determine whether or not the progra^e will continue after 2016 (when the term ends).

The key Strategies for the distribution of technologies:

- Improved seeds;
- Pretreatment (Preprocessing) of seeds with pesticides;
- Microdosage, deep investment(placement);
- Preservation of earth and water;
- Agroforestry;
- Regeneration Program.

We need a strategy but we need also innovative partnerships which can assure the diffusion of the strategies at the large scale, for example ICRISAT.

USAID has partnerships with IER, CMDT, the private sector and some microfinance institutes.

Another strategy is to revise the zone of intervention (113 communes), and revise clearly the objective of this initiative.

There are eight (8) news programs that are added:

1. ICRAF;
2. SPRING;
3. L4G;
4. Mali Food Security Policy Analysis &Capacity Building;

5. Doing business with the world bank'
6. Analysis policy of Food Security;
7. Hjj

This meeting's main purpose is linking FTF projects in Mali in order to create a synergy of actions during the implementation of the programs in Mali. It will allow a formal identification of the projects, their activities and their completion rate and a sharing of experiences and achievements. He insisted on the reduction of high-level indicators with regards to the prevalence of stunting and poverty.

Mr Abdrahamane DICKO: Program Management Specialist presented the new results framework and country strategy of USAID/Mali (for the period 2015-2019). Malians to forge a democratic, resilient and prosperous future.

Mr Oumar MALE D COP of Impact evaluation and quantitative population-based surveys for USAID/MALI's feed the future (FTF) Cereal Value Chain (CVC) activity: summarized the main results and indicators from the PBS survey to determine the reference populations and the situation within the FTF zones of intervention. After the presentation, questions focused on:

- why the Tombouctou region was not covered by surveys,
- if the education level had taken into account functional literacy,
- the high rate of malnutrition in the region of Sikasso,
- the sharing of the PBS report and IOS partners office contacts.

Ms Marika OLSON EG Office Deputy Director: She highlighted the outstanding FTF projects and underlined the importance of their relationships. The names of the principal officers of the projects and their contacts will now be available to all stakeholders.

Livestock for Growth Value Chain (LL4G) achieved by AECOM

L4G project activities have started in the Bankass and Koro circles and cover 210 villages divided among the 21 rural communes.

Dennis Knetch: Private Senior Officer Small and Medium Enterprise Financing Program

He exhibited access opportunities in financial services mainly with the Bank of Africa and the BICIM which must have representatives within the country.

The Morila Gold Mines

The Morila gold mine will be closed in 2016 and the managers want the commitment of private operators from the cooperatives for existing for tourism infrastructure management, the exploitation of agricultural areas, vegetable, poultry, and beekeeping.

Andrew McCrown - Agricultural Officer

FTF will very soon change its logo but everyone should keep the old version until receipt of new instructions

Closing remarks by David Yangen

All information will be shared between the different actors and this meeting will be organize quarterly by USAID.