



**IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS OF CONFLICT-AFFECTED POPULATIONS (ILCP)
IN DOUMENTZA DISTRICT, MOPTI
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AID-FFP-G-15-00053**

**First Quarterly Report
May 27, 2015 – June 30, 2015**

**Submitted to: Office of Food for Peace, USAID
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1. Key Information

Implementing Agency:

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Project Title: Improving Livelihoods of Conflict-Affected Populations (ILCP) in Douentza District, Mopti

Project Duration: May 27, 2015 – May 31, 2016

Program Goal: Contribute to the well-being of drought affected and food insecure communities in Douentza district

Budget: \$2,420,000

2. Situation

The security situation has remained relatively calm in Douentza District, with the exception of Mondoro commune where the security situation is more volatile. Field visits and meetings have indicated possible inter-community tensions triggered by the presence of armed bandits made up primarily of Peuhls. At the time of writing this report, the Malian army has intervened, though one targeted village, Oura Allaye Tem, remains beyond their area of control. The IRC is carefully monitoring the situation.

Additionally, the rainy season began in June in Douentza making access to intervention sites by vehicle challenging. Motorcycles were used instead when possible. Main activities covered during the reporting period include recruitment of project staff, completion of a context analysis, target village selection, and baseline activities.

3. Summary of Activities

3.1 Staff Recruitment

The project team is made up 23 staff including: 1 project manager, 3 project officers (cash distribution officer, M&E officer and community mobilization officer), 12 community facilitators, 6 cash distribution assistants, and 1 accountability assistant. They are expected to be fully deployed and allocated to their villages by the second week of July.

3.2 Context Analysis and Cash Distribution

In order to prepare for the cash distribution, the IRC conducted a detailed context assessment of Douentza in June. The main points to assess were:

- The network and road infrastructure in targeted communes
- The existence of potential cash distribution agencies
- The security context

The results of the context analysis report inform much of the decisions the project team made concerning the distribution standard operating procedures (SOPs). The SOPs that will be approved in July will give details on distribution agencies; on the sequences of steps in conducting the distribution, on payment modalities for beneficiaries and distribution agencies as well as the possible security challenges. The distribution strategy designed is in line with the project narrative with cash distribution planned for the month of August 2015. The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) will be conducted after the first cash distribution. The PDM report will be attached to the next project report. Cash distribution has been delayed due to the necessity to complete the context analysis, beneficiary selection (see section below) and baseline study before being able to undertake the distribution.

3.3 Beneficiary Selection

Beneficiary selection will be done in four main steps: village selection, population profiling, beneficiary targeting, and validation of beneficiary lists. Over the reporting period, the project team completed the selection of 12 villages, with the participation of officials and community leaders from target communes, the IRC team facilitated sessions for village selection in June, led by the top district council representatives of the district of Douentza. The main selection criteria were: numbers of drought affected households, presence of returnees and the presence of other humanitarian actors. Twelve (12) villages were chosen at the end of the exercise, and community leaders reported the results of village selection to their respective populations. Over the next quarter, the team will complete the remaining steps in order to select a total of 3,500 households within the 12 villages of the six targeted communes.

3.4 Baseline

All surveyors for the baseline have been recruited with training being held early July. All of the surveyors were recruited locally and speak the local language. The baseline study will be completed at the end of July covering a random sample size of 442 households out of the targeted 3,500 households across the twelve villages. A mixed method approach will be used, using two collection methods to collect qualitative and quantitative data: a household survey using smartphones and interviews with community leaders. Indicators covered include:

- Prevalence of HH with moderate or severe hunger (Household Hunger Scale)
- Average Household Dietary Diversity Score
- Minimum Women's Dietary Diversity Score
- % of targeted HHs who use the loans to access food

- % of targeted pastoralist HHs sell livestock to buy food

3.5 Awareness-raising Package

Development of the awareness-raising package will begin during the month of August for implementation in September. The project team is currently searching for a training module consultant.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

During start-up activities, the challenges encountered were related to difficult village access, particularly due to muddy roads in the rainy season. This had an impact of making some villages difficult to access with vehicles. The solution adopted was to use motorcycles in those villages for activities.

5. Activities for the Following Quarter

The main activities for the following quarter (July, August, and September 2015) will consist of:

- July:
 - o Finalize household selection
 - o Complete baseline study
- August:
 - o Staff training on cash distribution principles
 - o First cash distribution to households and PDM
 - o Development of the awareness-raising package
- September:
 - o Training of trainers on the awareness-raising package
 - o Awareness-raising sessions

Annex 1: Indicator Update

	Indicator	Baseline data	Actual Q1	Cumulative	Comment
Result 1: Targeted households have increased access to food and basic needs					
Indicator 1	% of supported HH who report an increase in food spending by at least 70% Target: 70% of HH	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 2	% of trained HH applying at least two home budgeting principles from the awareness-raising package in their resource management Target: 50% of HH	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 3	# of vulnerable households benefiting directly from cash distributions Target: 3,500 HH (12,464 men and 12,036 women)	0	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 4	% of targeted HHs reporting a decrease in the use of loans to access food Target: 50% of HH	71% of HH use loans to access food at the time of the baseline study	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 5	% of targeted pastoralist HHs reporting a decrease in livestock sale to buy food Target: 50% of HH	41% of HH sell livestock to buy food at the time of the baseline	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter

Indicator 6	# of cash transfers distributed to beneficiaries Target: 10,500	0	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 7	Value of cash transfers distributed to targeted beneficiaries. Target: \$945,000	0	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 8	# of months from donor-signed agreement to distribution of cash to beneficiaries.	0	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 9	# of beneficiaries targeted and reached, disaggregated by sex and age ¹ Target: 24,500 (5537 women, 5733 men, 6500 girls, 6730 boys)	0	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Result 2: The food consumption of beneficiary households is improved and harmful practices are reduced					
Indicator 1	Prevalence of HH with moderate of severe hunger (Household Hunger Scale) Target: Moderate: 1%; Severe: 1%	moderate hunger=38%, severe hunger=10%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter

¹ Age groups include the following: 6 to 23 months, 23 to 59 months, 5 to 18 years, and >18 years of age.

Indicator 2	Average Household Dietary Diversity Score Target: TBD after baseline	2.6	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 3	Minimum Women's Dietary Diversity Score Target: TBD after baseline	2.6	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 4	% of under-five children of targeted households identified as malnourished and referred to health facilities Target: 100%	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 5	% of trained HH applying at least two nutrition practices from the awareness-raising package in their resource management Target: 70%	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 6	% of HHs targeted reporting a decrease in use of children deprivation of food as a punishment Target: 70% of HH	5% at the time of the baseline study	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter
Indicator 7	% of targeted women reached by awareness-raising sessions Target: 80%	0%	NA		Activities will begin during the next quarter