



FACT SHEET

Sahel Resilience Learning Project (SAREL)



PHOTO: The Mitchell Group, Inc.

A group of women in Niger share their experiences incorporating moringa leaves into their households' meals.

Goal:

SAREL works to provide monitoring, evaluation, collaboration and learning support to USAID's Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) initiative in order to increase resilience in agro-pastoral and marginal agriculture zones of Burkina Faso and Niger.

Life of Program:

March 2014 – March 2019

Total USAID Funding:

\$ 11,515,689

Geographic Focus:

SAREL will support other RISE activities in chronically vulnerable areas of northeastern Burkina Faso and west and south-central Niger

Implementing Partner:

The Mitchell Group, Inc.



BACKGROUND

Following repeated large-scale humanitarian emergencies in the Sahel, USAID recognized that continuing to treat these recurrent crises as acute emergencies is extremely costly and does not effectively address their underlying causes. Thus, USAID's Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) initiative has realigned existing and new humanitarian and development assistance efforts to strengthen resilience in agro-pastoral and marginal agriculture livelihood zones of the Sahel. USAID will reduce chronic vulnerability by increasing economic well-being, strengthening institutions and governance, and improving health and nutrition status.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Sahel Resilience Learning Project (SAREL) works to strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders to engage in adaptive, evidence-based learning in order to promote the adoption of methods and innovations that best enhance resilience in the region. SAREL accomplishes this through the following objectives:

- Test, expand and accelerate the adoption of proven resilience-enhancing technologies and innovations
- Develop, test, and promote widespread adoption of new models that integrate humanitarian and development assistance
- Promote ownership, build the capacity of national and regional institutions, and coordinate humanitarian and development interventions
- Address gender issues key to resilience and growth
- Create a knowledge management database that will house a baseline assessment, ongoing monitoring data, and impact evaluations for the RISE Initiative

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Identification and adoption of innovative, easily implemented approaches and activities to strengthen resilience of communities
- Growing convergence of resilience strategies and approaches driven by a) adoption of collaborative learning and adaptation methods, b) emergence of thriving and active communities of practice, and c) improved capacity for rigorous evaluation

KEY ACTIVITIES

SAREL's main activities include:

- Collection and review of examples of successful, gender-sensitive resilience practices, to promote collaborative learning with RISE partners in order to expand the scale of these practices across the region
- Sharing of best practices from the region and encouraging innovation and adoption through interactive community radio programs
- Organizing learning forums to bring together farmers and international development experts to exchange experiences and ideas on resilience strengthening and identify new approaches for integrating humanitarian and development assistance
- Building understanding of the purpose, merits and technologies of collaborative, adaptive learning and providing assistance and mentoring to partner institutions to incorporate learning as central to their plans and operations
- Designing and supervising RISE baseline, mid-term and final impact assessments using mixed methods
- Establishing a resiliency center of excellence portal, which will serve as a technological means to foster and enhance resilience collaboration across the region