



January 2022

# Baseline Inception Report

## Mali

Consolidated report of the country baseline study, Theory of Change validation and results framework by Right2Grow partners.

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Preface & About Right2Grow

1. Baseline study report
2. Capacity & learning assessment report
3. Theory of Change validation document
4. Results framework

*Please note that in these documents, except for the preface, are originally written in French. The English version of the baseline inception report consists of automatically translated versions. The French version of the baseline inception report has the original French documents.*

# Preface

We proudly present this baseline inception report for Mali which we conducted for the Power of Voices Strategic Partnership Right2Grow. The five-year Right2Grow programme strengthens Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to amplify the voices of communities to improve access to WASH and nutrition services in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, South Sudan and Uganda, so that every child can reach its full potential.

**“By strengthening civil society, we believe that local communities can get to zero under- nutrition and zero people without access to basic WASH.”**

We would like to thank all international and national partners for their contributions to this report. It has been a challenging process in times of the global COVID-19 pandemic to coordinate the research and to collect, organise and analyse the data and jointly reflect on the results. This process was largely driven and owned by the country consortium, with support from a team of experts from our global partners. Importantly, the selection, hiring and general coordination of the external consultant was done nationally to ensure local ownership.

## **Reading guide**

The baseline inception report of Right2Grow Mali consists of the following sections:

### **1. Baseline study report**

This is the baseline study conducted by an external national consultant who authored the report in collaboration with ACF and World Vision Mali. It analyses the data collected in Mali on a selection of the basket indicators as provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SCS-indicators), complemented with several other indicators formulated by the Right2Grow consortium. It also includes the country specific political and economic context information. Due to challenges with the local consultant the baseline study report had to be co-produced by the Right2Grow partners to be able to finish the baseline inception report within a reasonable timeframe.

### **2. Capacity & learning assessment report**

This assessment at country level was conducted by the Right2Grow global mutual capacity development & linking and learning teams. The report is the foundation for validation and prioritisation dialogues with partners about their agendas for capacity strengthening, including technical skills and organisational development, and linking and learning in 2022 and beyond. These dialogues provide the capacity milestones for monitoring and evaluation at midterm and the end of the programme (SCS-indicator 5).

3. Theory of Change validation document

This is an assessment of the original country level Theory of Change in which the country consortium validated the different outcomes and pathways that are presented to lead to the envisioned impact of Right2Grow.

4. Results framework

This is the overview of the indicators of Right2Grow with the baseline values, and preliminary targets for the SCS-indicators and other country-level indicators. The establishment of baseline values and targets in this framework is based on the baseline study report combined with the results of validation and planning activities jointly conducted by all consortium partners. At the time of submission of this baseline inception report, the Right2Grow team is still processing feedback from the Ministry about the indicators (notably SCS-sub indicators and linkages between the country indicators and the thematic indicators of the Ministry). Feedback from the Ministry shall be addressed in the consolidated global baseline inception report (in which we will again share the results framework).

**Validation of targets**

It is important to note that the targets set in the results framework are preliminary. Although these targets are much clearer and more concrete than those of the first proposal, there is still need for further validation. First, there may be changes proposed by other stakeholders like CBOs and local government actors. Although the process of baseline reflection and target setting has been very inclusive – with all the international and national consortium partners – we could not engage all the external stakeholders yet. Second, in the first months of 2022 Right2Grow will consult the Dutch Embassy in country about the baseline results and targets. Although the overall TOC is in line with their – last – multi-annual strategic plan, realignment may be needed, and the embassy’s input to the targets will be valuable. Overall buy-in of all stakeholders will be essential because future decisions on certain aspects of activity planning and consequently budget allocations will be based on these targets among other things. Changes in targets, if any, shall be shared with the Ministry for approval, with the submissions of the 2021 annual report by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

# About Right2Grow

In Mali the Right2Grow consortium consists of the following partners:

- Action Against Hunger (lead partner)
- Association Malienne pour le Développement Communautaire (AMADECOM)
- Malian Association for the Protection of the Environment 'STOP-SAHEL'
- The National Coalition of the International Campaign for Water and Sanitation (NC-CIEPA)
- Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie (AJCAD)
- OMAES
- Groupe de Suivi Budgétaire (GSB)
- CEGAA
- World Vision

More information:

- About Right2Grow in Mali: [www.right2grow.org/en/where-we-work/mali/](http://www.right2grow.org/en/where-we-work/mali/)
- Country contact: Fousseny Traore – Mali consortium coordinator ([fttraore@ml.acfspain.org](mailto:fttraore@ml.acfspain.org))
- Our global website: [www.right2grow.org](http://www.right2grow.org)
- Global contact: Jouwert van Geene – global partnership facilitator ([jouwert@right2grow.org](mailto:jouwert@right2grow.org))

## Strengthening local voices

Right2Grow believes that sustainable progress can only be achieved by working with local communities, especially women and other marginalised groups. Therefore, we invest in communities, community-based organisations, and civil society organisations to collect their own data and stories on nutrition and WASH. We help them hold their nearest relevant government officials to account for what is needed, planned, and (often not) delivered. We help build those stories into strong evidence to convince national and international leaders and officials to make better choices.

Visit [www.right2grow.org](http://www.right2grow.org) for partner stories

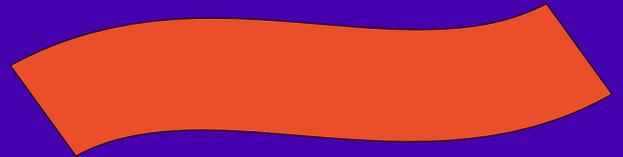
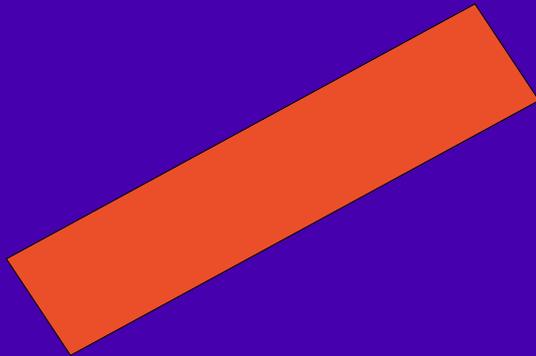
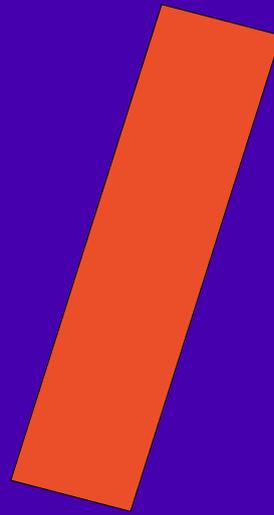
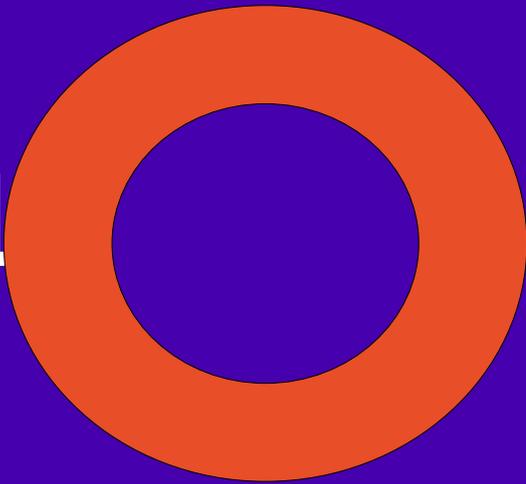
## Strengthening partnerships

Right2Grow strengthens partnerships between local communities and their governments to make a joint analysis of what is needed. They can then support local solutions for better nutrition and WASH. Additionally, Right2Grow links civil society organisations, the private sector, and all levels of government to bridge the gaps between them. Building on meaningful community involvement and ownership, we can scale up these solutions with an integrated and multisectoral approach.

Visit [www.right2grow.org](http://www.right2grow.org) for news and publications



**MALI**



# BASIC STUDY

"Evaluation Report, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of CSOs and Communities in Nutrition/WASH in the regions of Kayes, Sikasso and Koulikoro and Bamako"



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACF	Action Against Hunger
AIC	Climate-smart agriculture
AJCAD	Youth Association for Active Citizenship and Democracy
AMADECOM	Malian Association for Community Development
ANJE	Infant and Young Child Feeding
ASACO	Community Health Association
CDFA	Study on the Cost of Hunger
CCOCSAD	The Communal Committee for the Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions
CLOCSAD	Local Committee for the Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions.
CNSC	National Civil Society Council
CN-CIEPA	National Coalition of the International Campaign for Drinking Water and Sanitation
CNN	National Nutrition Council
CROCSAD	Regional Committee for the Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
CREDD	Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development
FONGIM	Forum of International NGOs in Mali
GSAN	Nutrition Activity Support Groups
GSB	Budget Monitoring Group
MAG	Global acute malnutrition
MAS	Severe acute malnutrition
NUT	Nutrition
OCB	Community-based organisation
ODD	Sustainable Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
OMAES	OÈuvre Malien d'aide à l'enfance du Sahel
PDESC	Economic, social and cultural development plans for municipalities
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PTF	Technical and Financial Partner
RNA	Assisted Natural Regeneration
SUN	Civil Society Movement for Nutrition
SWA	Sanitation and Water for All
TrackFin Mali	Water and sanitation initiative in Mali
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund,
WASH	Water, Hygiene, Sanitation
WVI	World Vision International

## PRACTICAL USER GUIDE

### How to read this Baseline report?

The Baseline report aims to provide data to help :

1. Understanding the context and validating the country's theory of change ;
2. Provide sufficient information on the 4 programme outcomes;
3. Define the indicators and develop the results framework;
4. Setting the objectives of the national programme ;
5. Inform the 2022 detailed planning process.

### How was the data analysed?

The results of the individual interviews and focus groups were collected using a collection matrix made available to the respondents. Once the Excel databases had been created, the data was extracted according to the type of respondent, the region and the theme.

### What use will be made of the results?

The results of this study provide the baseline indicators for the right2grow project and make recommendations to the consortium.

They enable the programme's implementation actors to have realistic target indicators thanks to the information collected on the intervention communes in the three regions of Sikasso, Koulikoro and Kayes, and also through documentary research. They guide the projections of quantitative and qualitative targets for years 2 and 5 of the project.

## SUMMARY OF THE BASELINE STUDY

This study, commissioned by Action Contre la Faim on behalf of the Right2Grow Consortium in Mali formed with World Vision, is descriptive, cross-sectional and evaluative. The collection involved secondary data through desk research and primary data through individual and focus group interviews.

The methodology consisted on the one hand of :

- a documentary study which lasted the whole time of the study and interviews both individually (Mairies/Communal Councils, technical services of agriculture and livestock Projects/programmes), and in focus groups (grassroots community organisations, management structures of basic social services, heads of households of malnourished children) The field mission took place throughout the month of October and covered the regions of Koulikoro, Kayes, Sikasso and Koutiala. In total, 48 individual interviews were conducted with community leaders, technical services and communities, and 59 focus groups were held with community relays, GSANs, men's and women's groups in the 24 communes.

According to the data collected, the capacity building priorities for 2022 are: information for cross-cutting themes (gender, inclusion, disability); child protection in monitoring and evaluation tools and protocols; design and dissemination of monitoring and evaluation tools to measure the involvement of women and young people in the implementation of the programme.

Formative evaluation requires the following actions:

- Promoting the planting of (drought resistant) tree species etc.
- strengthening communities in detecting signs and forms of malnutrition
- the promotion of the production and consumption of rich and varied foods based on local products; the establishment of a mechanism to motivate relays/ASCs and GSANs
- strengthening women's participation in decision-making,
- Intensification of awareness-raising activities on the adoption of hygiene and sanitation practices, including in local development plans (commune and village).

Obstacles to food diversification in most localities, food unavailability and food access are cited as the main obstacles to food diversification. The main health problems in the community are related to malaria in the population in general and in children in particular and diarrhoea. Most respondents do not consider malnutrition as a disease. Communities have little knowledge of the causes of malnutrition in general. The main

obstacles related to water, hygiene and sanitation are the problems of managing equipment in a functional situation and the poor use of latrines.

The results of the October 2021 Right2Grow project learning capacity assessment highlighted common needs among consortium members: the development of communication and advocacy strategies and the mobilisation of financial resources.

The data from the study allows the indicators to be characterised as follows:

**Indicator 1.1: Number of actions in which communities formulate requests for improved services (WASH and nutrition):** Communities already participate in accountability spaces and can therefore formulate their requests for improvement. In general, 04 spaces for formulating requests are used by communities at the communal level

**Indicator 1.2. Proportion of people from vulnerable or marginalised groups (women, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, etc.) involved in making demands for improvement (WASH and nutrition):** Community leaders participate in accountability spaces, not ordinary vulnerable people. Town halls usually invite those who can mobilise the community and make decisions.

**Indicator 1.3. Proportion of targeted barriers to good nutrition and/or WASH services successfully addressed through joint community and private sector initiatives:** The main barriers addressed are related to the effectiveness of malnutrition case management, insufficient GSAN supervision missions and low community mobilization, insufficient financial resources, soaring food prices, lack of local labour for water point maintenance and repair, low knowledge of good hygiene practices, as well as the high financial burden of nutrition and Wash expenditures on women. None of the actors illustrated successful cases of joint initiatives to overcome these obstacles.

**Indicator 2.1: Number of times CSOs have succeeded in creating space for their demands and positions by setting the agenda, influencing the debate and/or creating space for engagement:** CSOs at local level are not used to carrying out advocacy initiatives. At the national level there are on average 2 per year. This suggests that CSOs need to have a clear mapping of advocacy opportunities and clearly defined messages to carry out their own advocacy initiatives.

**INDICATOR 2.3: Proportion of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their members/constituencies, addressing gender issues related to nutrition and WASH:** According to the results, all structures interviewed had participated in at least one gender advocacy initiative. They rarely initiated gender-sensitive advocacy

activities on WASH and nutrition, even though the need for gender-sensitive training on nutrition and washing emerged repeatedly during this study.

**Indicator D.1: Number of CSOs with increased capacity in lobbying and advocacy:** Five CSO/NGO members of Right2Grow report that they have already initiated advocacy and lobbying activities; this illustrates that they have a foundation in this area. In the context of the Right2Grow programme, it is important that all CSOs have a stronger capacity and that this helps to mobilise other CSOs to become involved in advocacy.

**INDICATOR 3.2: Number of laws, policies and standards/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development:** None of the organisations approached said they had submitted a legislative proposal. However, in terms of policies and certain laws, some NGOs/CSOs have been active for years, particularly in participating in the process of reviewing national policies to adapt them to the Sustainable Development Goals. One example is the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy (PoINSAN). There is also the revision of the national water and sanitation policies and the water code as well as the multisectoral nutrition action plan.

**INDICATOR 3.3: Percentage of government budgets allocated and implemented for nutrition and WASH services (increased funding) :**

The budgets of the town halls approached do not show nutrition or WASH budgets. They only have available a health budget which should normally include nutrition. At the national level, Mali devotes 0.7% (2019) of its overall health budget to nutrition and 3.62% (2020) of the state budget to WASH. The communal budget nomenclature does not capture WASH and nutrition data in the communal budget

**INDICATOR 4.1: Level of success of lobbying and advocacy roles of R2G and its partners with donors and international actors**

Civil society has been very active in advocating for membership of the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism and advocating for commitments at the Nutrition for Growth forum. It is active in clusters and working groups on humanitarian but also development and the SUN movement with a good record of communication with donors.

**INDICATOR 4.2: Extent to which donors integrate the WASH-Nutrition nexus as part of the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition sanitation and hygiene**

Many stakeholders and donors are in favour of integrating WASH into nutrition, such as UNICEF, SIDA, USAID and Canada. In addition, the new multisectoral Nutrition

Action Plan 2021-2025 includes a WASH component and takes gender mainstreaming into account. The country also has a national WASH and Nutrition strategy.

### **Programme challenges and major orientations :**

The main challenges are the low knowledge of the rights and duties of citizens in terms of nutrition and Wash, the low knowledge of good practices in terms of nutrition and Wash, the very low budget devoted to nutrition (0.7%) and Wash (3.62% in 2020) and its lack of control at the communal level.

The main guidelines to be taken into account are:

- Strengthening CSOs in formulating and conducting budgetary and technical advocacy at the communal, local and national levels;
- Linking the project's advocacy and governance actions to the institutional framework of decentralisation;
- Strengthening the partnership between the SUN and SWA movements in Mali through joint advocacy action plans
- Increased monitoring of international nutrition and WAS commitments;
- The strong involvement of young people and women in the implementation of the programme, particularly at the communal level but also in the governance of the programme.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

As part of the Right2Grow project's advocacy work, it should

- Strengthen the mobilisation and capacity of community relays so that they better follow up on exclusive breastfeeding
- Strengthen the mobilization and capacity of GSAN groups;
- Create income-generating activities for women so that they can provide diversified food for their children;
- Raise awareness among caregivers about the main food groups needed to feed a child over 6 months of age;
- Strengthen CSOs in formulating and conducting budgetary and technical advocacy at the communal, local and national levels;
- Invest in the development of communal WASH and nutrition budget analysis tools and initiatives and conduct national nutrition and WASH budget analysis exercises.
- Strengthen the partnership between the SUN and SWA movements in Mali through joint advocacy action plans for a better integration of WASH and

nutrition as well as the follow-up of international commitments made by Mali in favour of nutrition and WASH;

- Conducting communication campaigns for the consumption of local products with high nutritional value
- Supporting civil society in specialising in nutrition and wash issues and in fundraising;
- Integrate monitoring of decisions, legislation and policy/programme development/revision at all geographical levels of governance (national, regional, local and communal).

# 1. MALI CONTEXT AND FOCUS ON THE NUTRITIONAL SITUATION

## 1.1. Mali context

A landlocked Sahelian country covering an area of 1,241,238 km<sup>2</sup>, Mali shares nearly 7,000 km of borders with Algeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and Mauritania. Mali's economy is mainly based on the primary sector (agriculture, livestock, fishing), which employs nearly 80% of the active population. It is dominated by the informal sector. The dominant farming system is family-based and deploys mixed production systems that largely follow the physiognomy of the climate from north to south. They are exclusively pastoral in the north and agro-sylvo-pastoral in the south, with a stronger pastoral component in the Sahel than in the Sudanese zone.

Its population is estimated in 2022 at 21,696,914 hbts according to the 2021 harmonised framework. According to the CREDD document (2019-2023):

-The incidence of poverty in 2017 was 44.9% compared to 47.2% in 2015, a decrease of 2.3 percentage points;

-Between 2015 and 2017, real GDP growth averaged 5.7% (6.0% in 2015, 5.8% in 2016 and 5.3% in 2017).

- In 2017, according to demographic projections, the working age population (15 years and over) would represent 52.7% of the total population.

- Youth unemployment affects some administrative regions more than others. The region of Gao has the highest rate of unemployment among young people aged 15-35 (54.8%), followed by Koulikoro (46.8%) and Bamako (18.5%). The regions of Sikasso (4.7%), Ségou (5.5%) and Kayes (6.1%) are the least affected by unemployment among 15-35 year olds. Unemployment is also more common among young people with higher (44.2%) and secondary (31.8%) education. In addition to the relatively high level of unemployment, the labour market is also characterised by the extremely high weight (97%) of informal jobs, which are generally precarious and low-paid.

The results of the Cost of Hunger Study (CDFA)<sup>1</sup> showed that over the past five years (2009-2013), child deaths related to under-nutrition amounted to 161,065. These deaths represent 34.3% of all under-five mortality cases in this period. The study also shows that Mali loses 4.06% of its gross domestic product (GDP) due to the cumulative effects of child undernutrition in terms of health expenditure, school expenditure and lost productivity in the labour market.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Economy and Finance, 2017

As part of its proactive decentralisation policy, Mali has agreed to transfer the responsibility for the management of drinking water and sanitation services to the Local Authorities, with the support of decrees issued in this regard, together with specific provisions for the transfer of public budgetary resources for the exercise of the transferred responsibilities. To this end, a rather modest national objective of 30% has been set for the transfer of public budgetary resources to local authorities, due to the weak budgetary management capacities of local authorities. The transfer of public budgetary resources to the Territorial Communities reached the rate of 21.34% of the national budget in 2019, with a modest volume of CFAF 865.9 million, under the water and sanitation budget programmes, for less than 0.25% of the total budgetary volume transferred. In 2019, the State issued a decree transferring the State's deconcentrated technical services to the local authorities, with the aim of making up for the lack of technical capacity to exercise the project management powers transferred to the local authorities.

The results of a 2018 study by Action Against Hunger on "Assessing the resilience of health systems to health and nutrition emergencies in the Sahel region" are confirmed. The study stated that health systems in the region were fragile and not very resilient to shocks. Health systems in the Sahel were suffering for seven (7) out of twelve (12) months from the combined effects of peaks in the four major killer diseases in children (Acute Respiratory Infections, Malaria, Diarrhoea and Malnutrition). The health crisis due to COVID-19 has added to this situation and is having a disastrous impact on health systems, morbidity and mortality of children under five and pregnant and lactating women. According to the joint FONGIM-Food Security Cluster advocacy note (Dec. 2020), the loss of income and remittances due to the economic impacts of COVID-19, combined with rising prices, is expected to increase the national poverty rate by 4.8 percentage points in 2020, meaning that nearly 900,000 additional people will fall below the poverty line in Mali.

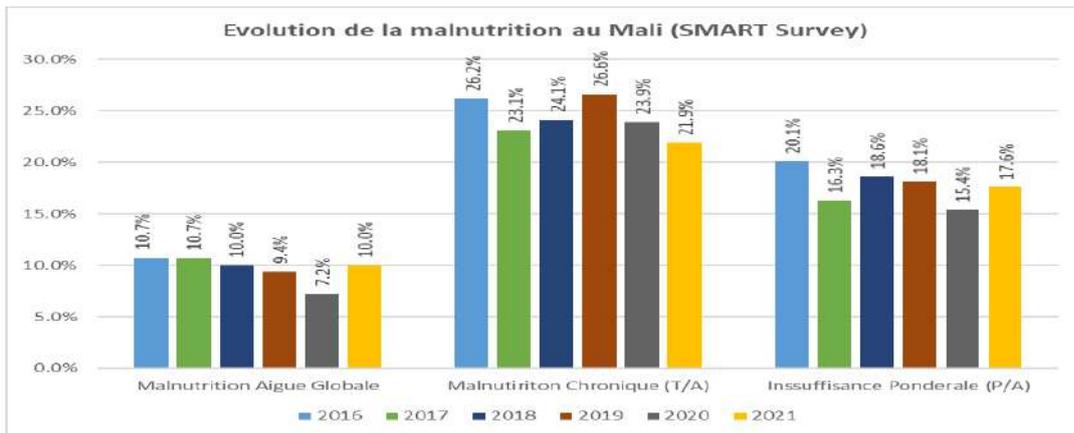
In terms of the impact of conflict and insecurity, Mali is experiencing a serious humanitarian situation marked by insecurity, political tensions with regional and international organisations and the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Armed groups continue to attack civilians in the north, centre and increasingly the south of the country. Several blockade zones have been noted in the centre and the north, reducing the possibilities for agricultural and pastoral activities. Some direct or indirect attacks target national and international armed forces. These conflicts have led to significant population displacements both within Mali and towards neighbouring countries. As of 30 September 2021, IDPs are estimated at 69,696 households with 401,736 people (DTM, September 2021). In 2021, the government accelerated the process of drafting a bill on the rights of IDPs.

## 1.2. Nutritional situation in Mali

In Mali, malnutrition is a public health problem, as it is in most of the countries of the Sahel. It is one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in children under five. It is a multifactorial health problem whose causes are lack of access to quality food, inappropriate infant and young child feeding care and practices, poor hygiene and sanitation practices, insufficient access to safe water and health services. According to DHS VI 2018, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition or stunting is 27%, of which 17% are moderate and 10% are severe among children under 5 years of age (DHS VI, Mali 2018), compared with 23.9%, of which 7.2% are severe, in 2020 (SMART Mali 2020). Malnutrition levels are higher in rural areas than in urban areas: the prevalence of stunting varies from 29% to 17%.

One in ten women (10%) suffer from wasting, of which 3% are in the moderate or severe form. The percentage of women aged 15-49 with wasting varies according to age. It is significantly higher among young women aged 15-19 (18%) than among others (between 7% and 9%) (DHS VI, Mali 2018). The Kayes region has one of the highest percentages of women aged 15-49 with wasting (16%), along with the Gao region (17%), than the others (DHS VI, Mali 2018).

In the Sikasso region, considered the food basket of Mali and even of the sub-region, a paradox of abundance prevails. The agricultural sector is generally in surplus, but there is a high prevalence of malnutrition, the causes of which could be insufficient knowledge of the diet of pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and young children; insufficient support for the health system in the integrated management of acute malnutrition (PCIMA); insufficient respect for hygiene and sanitation measures; and the lack of a comprehensive approach to the management of malnutrition; insufficient respect for hygiene and sanitation measures within the community; insufficient knowledge of negotiation tools for practices (production choices, conservation and use of food) that can improve nutrition, etc. According to the SMART Mali 2019 and 2020 survey in Sikasso (not including the Covid-19 impact), the prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children aged 0-5 years has decreased from 31.7% in 2019 to 24.4% in 2020. Despite this reduction in the rate, the Sikasso region remains in a precarious situation. The reduction of this scourge requires the improvement of a multitude of determinants among women of childbearing age, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children under five.



**Figure 1 Malnutrition trends in Mali**

The sectoral analysis of nutrition based on the preliminary results of the SMART 2021 survey reveals that Mali continues to face an alarming nutritional situation: 7 out of 11 regions have GAM prevalences between 10 and 17.9%. The Ménaka region is in a critical situation with a GAM prevalence of 17.9%, well above or equal to the 15% alert threshold defined by WHO. No region is in an acceptable situation with a GAM <5%.

The regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Ségou, Timbuktu and Gao have a SAM prevalence ranging from 1.4% in Kayes to 1.9% in Ségou, while Ménaka and Mopti have a SAM prevalence that exceeds the critical threshold of 2% defined by WHO, i.e. 2.3% in Mopti and 3.9% in Ménaka.

Compared to 2020, the SMART 2021 survey shows a critical nutritional situation in IDP sites with a GAM prevalence of 24.5% in Ségou, 22.3% in Timbuktu and 18.5% in Bamako, while in 2020, all IDP sites except Gao (6.4%) and Mopti (9.2%) had GAM prevalences between 11 and 12%: Koulikoro (12.3%); Segou (11.7%); Timbuktu (11.6%) and Bamako (12.2%).

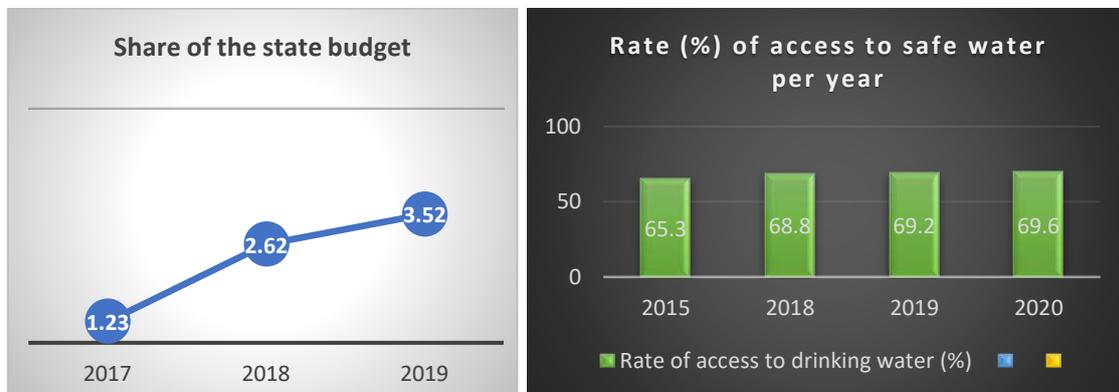
According to the SMART 2021 report, there are good prevention, care and reporting systems in place, but funding is often not as good as desired. The second major challenge is funding, hence the need to prioritise nutrition, especially on the part of the state, and the need to continue to advocate for the mobilisation of resources for nutrition. In the context of the Nutrition for Growth 2021 forum, it has presented commitments, including financial ones, and is committed to integrating the conclusions of the 2021 summit on food systems.

### 1.3. Situation of WASH services in Mali

Mali plans to achieve 100% access to basic drinking water and sanitation services by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country also aims to achieve End of Open Defecation (EOD) status by 2030.

According to the report of the Cadre de Concertation des Acteurs de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement (2022), nationally there is a disparity in access to improved sanitation services in 2019, with a rate of 46% in urban areas, compared to 22% in rural areas, for a national rate of 32.6%, while 15% of households have handwashing facilities with water and soap. Similarly, access to WASH services is much lower among the poorest populations and vulnerable groups, with respective rates of access to basic WASH services of 26.8% and 11.8% for households in the lowest economic welfare quintile, compared to 94.3% and 54.5% for those in the highest quintile.)

The national WASH2 sector report also shows that the share of funding for WASH continues to be below the SWA commitment of 5%.) Indeed, the share of the national budget allocated to the WASH sector has increased from 1.57% in 2016, to 3.52% in 2019 and 3.62% in 2020, which is over 70% of the SWA target of 5%.



**Figure: 2Budget (2017-2018-2019) and access rate to drinking water in Mali**

#### 1.4. Food Security Situation in Mali

According to the Harmonised Framework 2021 report, for the period October to December 2021, almost 1.2 million people are in need of emergency food assistance (phase 3&4)<sup>1</sup>, almost triple the number of last year. By June 2022, the number of people in need of emergency assistance is likely to reach nearly 1.8 million if nothing is done to drastically improve the response, including through the mobilisation of the necessary short-term and long-term funding. The explosion of the food crisis is part of a trend of sharp deterioration in the wider humanitarian crisis with nearly 6.3 million Malians in need of emergency assistance for access to food and nutrition, water, health, education, protection, shelter.

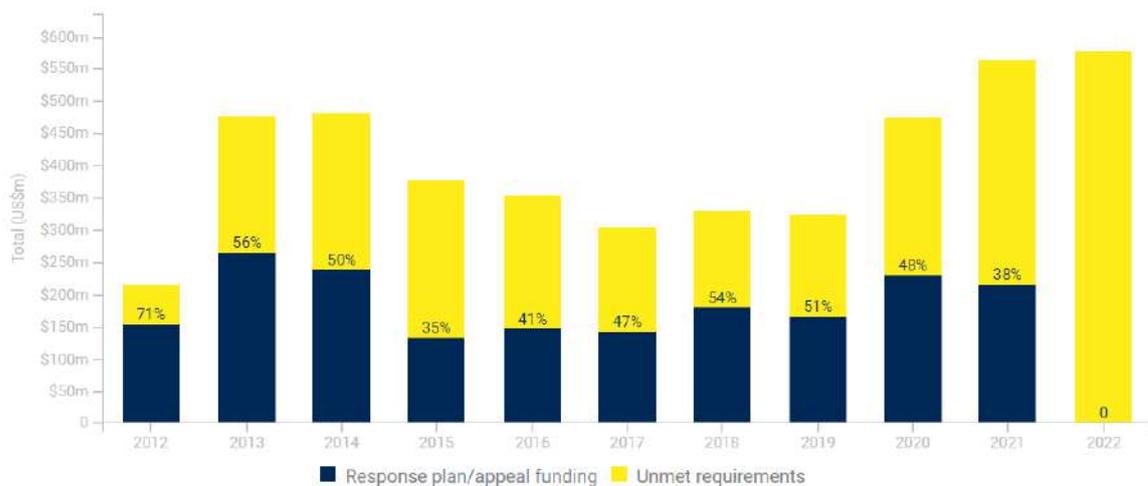
Physical availability is generally average. The extent of the seasonal decline in cereal prices is small. Indeed, despite two consecutive years of good production, cereal prices have remained at high levels. This upward trend will continue in view of the

<sup>2</sup> Report: Water and Sanitation Stakeholder Dialogue Framework 2020

unsatisfactory pace of the agricultural season across the country. Cereal prices are expected to rise relative to five-year averages. Livestock markets are well supplied with prices close to average. Due to high cereal prices, the terms of trade will be unfavourable for the vast majority of pastoralists.

With regard to climate change, according to the Netherlands Commitment to the Sahel, Mali's climate shows inter-annual variability, particularly with regard to rainfall. Temperatures can reach maximums of up to 45°C, with only little inter-annual seasonal variation. According to some experts, a temperature increase of between 1.2 and 1.9 degrees Celsius - i.e. lower than predicted for the region - will be sufficient to increase the proportion of the West African population suffering from malnutrition by 95% in 2050 (Reliefweb, 2016). The price of food is also expected to rise significantly. The paper also points out that "over the past 20 years, per capita water resources have declined by more than 40%. In the future, climate shocks are expected to increase. The region is experiencing high weather variability and rising temperatures as well as soil degradation. Soil and vegetation cover are degrading year by year, which could harm the region's economy, which is based mainly on agro-pastoral production that employs nearly 80-90% of the population. Rural populations are particularly affected by the effects of climate change, such as increased extreme weather events, disruption of the water cycle, and reduced land fertility and vegetation cover, which threaten the livelihoods and food security of fishing, farming and livestock-raising communities, according to the FAO. The resulting difficulties for livestock keepers persist for several years, marked by early and prolonged periods of fodder deficits and limited access to water for livestock, leading to changes in transhumance schedules and exacerbating conflicts over natural resource management. There is a high probability that climate change could lead to more intense and frequent droughts and floods, which could increase the prevalence and frequency of epidemics, animal diseases and pests with more negative impacts on food security and nutrition. The sharp increase in climate change-related disasters could also trigger forced displacement and local tensions due to competition over limited resources. These disasters are one of the main causes of food and nutrition insecurity (both in the short and long term). In response to the lean season, cereal banks have been set up in all of Mali's communes and their management has been entrusted to the mayors by inter-ministerial decree under the supervision of the Prefects with the support of the Food Security Commission.

## Trends in response plan/appeal requirements



Graph source: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1036/summary>

### 1.5. Gender analysis :

Mali is a very conservative country in terms of the expected roles of men, women, girls and boys. Patriarchy shapes social norms and establishes that control over all strategic resources and services, as well as decisions that affect all groups, are exercised by men. According to Action Contre la Faim's March 2020 gender analysis, Sikasso appears to be a region with a strong gender and age hierarchy reflected by the dominance of older men in decision-making, followed by the rest of the adult men. Kayes appears to be more balanced in terms of decision-making, participation and sharing of certain tasks, but male dominance remains in the control of resources.

In Mali, responsibility for the various basic activities in the home is mainly borne by women and girls. As a result, and because these tasks require a significant daily investment of time, difficulties in accessing credit and land for production, women are particularly less active in income generating activities. They have little time off and little access to decision-making forums in the community. Women carry a higher workload than men, which is noted in the causal analysis of malnutrition as one of the main causes of child malnutrition. Promoting the reduction of women's workload will therefore contribute to the reduction of malnutrition, as more women will have space to participate in food production services, as well as to their empowerment. This reduction will also give them more time to care for children, in terms of preparing nutritious food, practising good hygiene such as regular hand washing with soap (very important in the context of Covid-19), food hygiene, safe disposal of children's excreta, etc. Although this may seem contradictory as women spend most of their day working,

they are very dependent, as the control of resources (including money) is in the hands of men.

The results of the survey conducted by Action contre la Faim also show that girls and boys are working in both regions, and not only at home, but also in income-generating activities. Education and expectations for girls and boys strongly replicate gender stereotypes that dictate that girls should take care of the home and boys should bring home the money. This is a vicious circle that requires effort to break. In addition, girls face many obstacles to attending school and completing their studies (both as a cause and consequence of early marriage and pregnancy, which are risk factors for undernutrition in their children). There is a significant lack of knowledge about the signs of malnutrition in infants and young children as well as in pregnant and lactating women. There is also a huge information gap on the links between poor WASH practices/conditions and undernutrition. Basic information on these topics needs to be passed on to people for the success of our interventions.

In Kayes, women aged 18 to 35 and women aged 36 to 59 are the most likely to have knowledge and experience of food processing, food preparation and water point maintenance. In Sikasso too, women aged 18 to over 60 dominate in terms of knowledge and experience in food processing and food preparation (with a strong presence of girls). However, for the maintenance of water points, it is men and women who take care of this task together, with little support from girls.

Hygiene knowledge appears in all gender and age groups. Women aged 18-59 are in the highest level in Kayes, and older people in the lowest. In Sikasso, the results show more balance at this level among all groups. Gender-based violence has a very high prevalence in Mali. According to the UNDP in Mali (Gender Strategy 2018 - 2020), 96% of women and girls are victims or survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), and 54% of the national territory lacks care services. Thus, interventions that are not sensitive to GBV contribute to the perpetuation of this human rights violation.

According to the needs analysis in the Kayes and Sikasso regions conducted by ACF in June 2019, the ANJE (Infant and Young Child Feeding) indicators remain low: only 32.6% of children aged 0-6 months are exclusively breastfed, 53.4% of them continue breastfeeding until the age of 2, and only 13.5% of non-breastfed children aged 6-23 months received at least 2 milk meals and a minimum dietary diversity. Working with men should be seen as a passport to successful interventions and women's empowerment. As they are responsible for decision making in general, and more specifically, for women's/daughters' freedom of movement, for household expenses especially those related to children's health, hygiene and nutrition, and for the use of health facilities by family members, they should be aware of/aware of the activities in which family members are involved. In addition, it is advisable to create support for men

that helps challenge hegemonic models of masculinity. In general, male heads of household decide on the freedom of movement of the whole family. This means that all activities that involve travel must consider the awareness and approval of men.

According to the WHO & World Bank World Report on Disability, published in 2011, there are more than one billion people with disabilities living with some form of disability. This represents about 15% of the world's population, or one in seven people (including over 2,000,000 in Mali). It has been shown that people living with disabilities have reduced access to WASH services and are more susceptible to undernutrition. This prevalence is likely to increase in particular contexts: developing countries with maternal & child health problems, natural disasters, poverty, poor immunisation; conflict or post-conflict areas, etc. According to the report of the General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH 2009) of Mali, people with disabilities are estimated at 99,616 or 0.7% of the total resident population. This population is a victim of false beliefs that can have negative impacts on their care in several areas of life although Mali has a law (Law No. 2018-027 of 12 June 2018) on the rights of people living with a disability.

The table below, taken from an Action Against Hunger 2021 baseline study report, provides the percentage of women involved in decision-making on major household purchases, either alone or in consultation with their spouse.

Region	EDSM VI Mali 2018	Data Baseline survey
Kayes	12,1%	12%
Sikasso	11,5%	6,5%

Table I Comparison of MSDS data and GAC survey results

The above-mentioned baseline study recorded women's participation rates in decision-making on major household purchases, alone or in consultation with their spouses, in the regions of Kayes and Sikasso as 12% and 6% respectively. This difference between Kayes and Sikasso can be explained by the internal and external mobility of heads of household in Kayes, where women are required to bear the family's expenses for the entire time their husbands are away. They bear the bulk of the daily expenses for household food (condiments) as well as a large part of the children's expenses (food supplements apart from the three common meals, clothing, school fees and medical



- World Vision will support NGOs working in the regions of Koulikoro and Sikasso while supporting national advocacy with these NGOs;
- The Malian Association for Community Development (AMADECOM) will intervene in the communes of the Sikasso region;
- The Malian Association for the Protection of the Environment "STOP-SAHÉL" will cover the communes of the Kayes Region;
- The National Coalition of the International Water and Sanitation Campaign (NC-ISWC) will support NGOs in the regions in WASH monitoring and advocacy at local and national levels while monitoring country commitments to the SWA initiative;
- The Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie (AJCAD) will take care of the virtual sensitisation of actors in Bamako, notably through social networks, and will ensure that young people are taken into account in advocacy;
- OMAES will implement the programme in the Koulikoro region and follow up on SUN commitments in Bamako;
- The Groupe Suivi Budgétaire (GSB) will support local NGOs in budget analysis, monitoring and advocacy in Bamako and the citizens' watch committees in the communes of the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso.

### 2.1. Context for the implementation of the RIGHT TO GROW project :

In Mali, food crises, instability and difficulties of access and security in the North and Centre of the country exacerbate the general nutritional situation. The country is in a food and nutrition crisis situation, making it a real chronic public health problem. The involvement of communities in the financing of health remains weak and is reflected in the poor integration of nutrition in most of the Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plans of the communes (PDESC). However, several measures have been taken to make the communes more responsible:

- The creation of regional, local and communal committees for the orientation, coordination and monitoring of development actions (CROCSAD, CLOCSAD, CCOCSAD) respectively at the level of regions, circles and communes (decree 095 /P RM of 21 February 2008);
- The modalities for implementing transfers of competences through the development of a general framework of three-year plans for transfers of competences accompanied by a common methodology for ministerial departments (Prime Minister's Instruction No. 08 0003 PM/RM of 21 November 2008 relating to the implementation of the transfer of competences and resources from the State to the territorial authorities);

- The transfer of deconcentrated State technical services to local authorities through decree n°2019-0258/P-RM of 27 March 2019;

The evolution of national budget documents now makes it possible to know through budgetary analysis the level of resources that are reaching communities across the country.

The cost of malnutrition (in terms of stunting) in Mali is estimated at 4.06% of GDP in 2013, equivalent to 266 billion CFA<sup>3</sup> francs. Yet the return on investment in nutrition is inestimable: every US\$1 (about 560 CFA francs) yields US\$16 (about 8,500 CFA francs).

In terms of financing and accessibility to services, communities face several concerns such as the low coverage of household financial needs. On this issue of financing, the Nutrition Coordination Unit in Mali, in collaboration with different sectoral departments of the government and with the support of partners, has carried out an analysis of the Malian state budgets dedicated to nutrition during the period 2014-2017. During the period 2014-2017, a total of 47.8 billion CFA francs were allocated to specific and nutrition sensitive activities in the Malian state budget. Domestic resources predominate and represent 73% of total budgetary allocations for nutrition from the state budget, compared to 23% for external funding. The results of the study indicate that government resources are largely allocated at the national level (74%) and in the Bamako region (14%). This study confirms the financial difficulties of the decentralised structures and calls for a joint and more strategic commitment of all actors at all levels (State, communities, donors, international NGOs and civil society) to increase the resources of the sector in order to fight against malnutrition, which is ravaging the population, particularly children.

In the WASH sector, Mali is implementing the TrackFin initiative for tracking investments in the water and sanitation sector. Right2Grow partners will contribute to this process in Mali by providing NGO budget information, co-funding the process and mobilising other non-consortium NGOs to provide their financial data. As a reminder, WVI and ACF are already familiar with TrackFin in Mali.

The Right2Grow programme in Mali will contribute to the achievement of the Netherlands' main objectives in the Sahel, which include

- . "Improved natural resource management and more efficient use of water in agriculture, leading to greater resilience of farmers and their families to land degradation" through information/awareness raising on climate change.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Cost of Hunger Study, Mali, 2017

- . "...Reduction of malnutrition in the regions" through community involvement in nutrition governance and the adoption of good food and hygiene practices
- . "Improving the economic prospects of family farms through commercially viable rural development initiatives in cooperation with producer organisations and SMEs" through support to women's/youth groups, the local private sector and linking them to local decision-makers;
- . "Promoting access to water, sanitation and hygiene, especially in schools and health centres, and significantly increasing water production capacity in rapidly expanding cities" through citizen participation in WASH governance and budgetary influence at central level, participation in sector accountability frameworks, promotion of integration of the WASH sector into other areas, synergy of work with NGOs and UN agencies in the area of WASH, nutrition, food security, climate change.

In Mali, the civic space is strong and large due to the diversity of themes, expertise on nutrition and WASH issues, and the existence of associations/groups in almost every village in the country. Civil society is regularly consulted by the National Assembly in the context of voting on legislation, including the budget, as was the case with the management of faecal sludge in Bamako, using the CN-CIEPA as an umbrella organisation for civil society in WASH. However, civil society must work to have more capacity to present evidence and influence elected officials and to work on issues over time for greater effect. It must also be able to present evidence to edify elected officials on the issues, hence the need for continuous upgrading and more resources for action. However, the civic space faces important challenges:

- . The weakness of internal democratic principles among many CSOs with some perceived to be politicised and supportive of the government or political parties or the interests of the political elite;
- . Insufficient thematic and methodological capacities such as advocacy skills, policy analysis to contribute to local and national debate;
- . Insufficient external communication among civil society organisations to disseminate their achievements in order to mobilise funds;
- . Low awareness of human rights in general and those of women and children in particular by rights holders and duty bearers at all levels of society.
- . Few resources are allocated to the promotion of rights by development partners and the government;
- . Difficulties in accessing budget documents ;
- . The low exploitation of the opportunity of existing institutional coordination and orientation bodies such as the CCOCSAD, CLOCSAD and CROCSAD due to weak capacities in evidence production and advocacy.

In addition, Mali is involved in the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) initiative for which the country has made commitments under the Mutual Accountability Mechanism: The table below sets out its commitments and their level of implementation:

<b>GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS</b>	<b>LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT</b>
1. Adopt by decree the new national water and sanitation policy documents with their implementation programmes by the end of 2021.	New National Water Policy (NWP) developed and validated with the support of the World Bank; New National Sanitation Policy (NSP) validated ; 2 National Programmes (IWRM, HA) developed and validated, with the support of the Netherlands; 6 other programmes under development with the support of ADB, UNICEF and GIZ.
2. By 2022, develop a new National Water Development Strategy (taking into account the poorest and most vulnerable populations). New strategic orientations in favour of the poorest and most vulnerable populations are taken into account in the PNAEP.	
3. By 2022, develop new national sanitation strategies: Reflections are underway	
4. Hold a dialogue on financing the sector to arrive at a concerted approach to mobilising financial resources	The dialogue on financing the sector was held in October 2020.
5. Accelerate the rate of access to drinking water for the population by 2 percentage points per year, i.e. 800,000 people per year	Implementation of the emergency social programme for access to drinking water: launch of 100,000 social connections and several water supply projects underway throughout the country.
<b>PTF COMMITMENTS</b>	<b>LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT</b>
1. Align the intervention of the TFPs with the Government's priorities, on the basis of a roadmap resulting from the consultation framework of the sector's actors, starting with the 2019 edition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holding of meetings to follow up on the implementation of the roadmap of the recommendations of the consultation framework of the sector's stakeholders;</li> <li>- Holding of the TFP Thematic Group meetings in the water and sanitation sector</li> </ul>
<b>OSC WASH COMMITMENTS</b>	<b>LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT</b>
1. Advocate to the Government to create a sub-axis dedicated to WASH in the new CREDD 2019-2023,	Integration of an EHA sub-axis in the new CREDD
2. Advocate for access to water, hygiene and sanitation to be a constitutional right in the context of the ongoing constitutional review;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with the expert committee in charge of the revision of the constitution ;</li> <li>- Meeting with the Minister in charge of Institutions and Society in the framework of the organisation of the inclusive dialogue;</li> <li>- Meeting with the Permanent Secretariat in charge of the inclusive national dialogue.</li> </ul>

<p>3. Report annually to the Government on the status of implementation of the commitments made in the framework of MDG 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with the DGB and DNPD to better advocate for an increase in the state budget for water and sanitation.</li> <li>- Meeting with Parliamentarians in favour of increased state funding for water and sanitation.</li> <li>- Interpellation of the Government by the CN-CIEPA on 10 December 2019 on the need to increase the State budget and improve the Governance of the water and sanitation sector.</li> </ul>	
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENTS</b>	<b>STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION</b>
1. To contribute to the reduction of disparities in access to drinking water through investments in rural areas.	Launch of the first UDUMA project works in the Sikasso region (300 works in service).
2. Strengthen the PPP for the management of the public service delegation.	A rural water and sanitation project is being formulated (Government-FDA)
<b>Commitment of LEARNING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES</b>	<b>Implementation status</b>
Conducting research on the quantitative and qualitative availability of water resources, and producing scientific information in relation to climate change and social demand.	A scientific paper on the impact of mining on water quality is produced and submitted for publication

Table 2 Commitments and level of achievement

In the area of nutrition, Mali recorded and presented the following commitments at the Nutrition for Growth Summit in December 2021:

<b>In financial terms</b>	
Mali is committed to mobilising financial resources to the tune of 600 million each year for the purchase of RUTFs;	Mali commits to finance 15% of the new MAPN 2021-2025;
Mali is committed to mobilising financial resources for nutrition through innovative mechanisms such as GFF and the UNITELIFE initiative by 2025.	
<b>On the programmatic level</b>	
Mali is committed to reducing the prevalence of chronic malnutrition to below 20% by 2025.	
<b>On the political level:</b>	
Mali is committed to mainstreaming nutrition in <b>strategic</b> development policies and plans such as the CREDD, PDESC by 2025;	Mali is committed to adopting legislation on the marketing of breastmilk substitutes;
Mali commits to include the right to food and nutrition as a constitutional right in the next constitutional referendum.	

Table 3 Commitments presented at the Nutrition for Growth Forum

## 2.2. R2G's approach to nutrition, WASH and food security

The strategic objective of the Right2Grow programme is: by 2025, to contribute to the reduction of malnutrition-related mortality and morbidity and access to affordable quality water, sanitation and hygiene services through multi-sectoral interventions supported by effective private sector involvement, increased endogenous and external funding, inclusive citizen participation at all levels, and mutual accountability.

The intervention approach is based on empowerment of local communities for participatory and inclusive advocacy, multi-stakeholder partnership in a multi-sectoral vision of nutrition, capacity building of various actors at all levels, communication for behaviour change, citizen mobilisation for advocacy and documentation.

In terms of mutual accountability, synergy will be undertaken with the national SWA (Sanitation and Water for All) committee to define common Nutrition commitments associated with existing WASH commitments. Actions will be taken to ensure that a mechanism is put in place with all categories of actors. The first level will be regional to bring each of the stakeholder groups (NGOs, CBOs, local private sector, local media, local authorities, ASACOs/Health Centres, etc.) to make voluntary commitments that can be achieved in 4 years, including the acceptance of an annual evaluation. At the central level, in addition to the same categories of actors at the regional level, there will be commitments from the TFPs involved in nutrition and the ministries in charge of nutrition and food security.

Right2Grow in Mali places particular emphasis on empowering young people in nutrition and WASH advocacy. This is why the local organisation AJCAD-Mali is involved in the programme with the mission to ensure that the concerns of young people and their role in the programme are heard at the local and national level. AJCAD Mali will set up web platforms accessible to rural youth to receive their complaints on nutrition and WASH.

## 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE BASELINE STUDY AND COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

### 3.1. Introduction to the Baseline study

#### 3.1.1. Context of the evaluation

Over the past decades, great progress has been made in reducing all forms of undernutrition in children under five (UC5). In fact, the international community recognises that we have sufficient expertise and resources to achieve zero undernutrition. Nevertheless, nearly 200 million U5C are stunted (low height/age), wasted (low weight/height), or both, and more than 340 million are vitamin and mineral deficient. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic puts even more CU5 at risk. The

world is not on track to meet most of the MDG targets related to hunger, food security, nutrition and access to water, sanitation and hygiene, an essential prerequisite for good nutritional status. Right2Grow has analysed the root causes of our failure to reduce these numbers to zero. At the same time, strong women, men and children in affected communities are ready to speak out about their needs, and ready to be part of the solution. Right2Grow will bridge the gap between these powerful women, men and children and the often powerless leaders, experts and technocrats, with a comprehensive five-year strategy that includes our approaches to advocacy, learning, mutual capacity building and adaptive management. We will work closely with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands and in the programme countries to achieve common goals and sustainable impact. R2G will align with international actors and encourage them to join the consortium. Together with the communities Right2Grow works with, their organisations, the private sector and government partners, the goal is to achieve zero undernutrition and zero people without access to basic WASH services!

To achieve such an impact, the partnership focuses on four major outcomes/outcomes which are

- a. Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners;
- b. Representative and empowered civil society organisations (CSOs) effectively navigate the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition;
- c. The national government and decentralised entities adopt and integrate an integrated and multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition into policies, action plans and budget allocations.
- d. Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate within the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition.

### **3.1.2. Scope of the evaluation :**

This baseline study is intended for use by programme implementers to help them determine realistic indicators and targets. It provides information on the state of play in the intervention communes of the three regions of Sikasso, Koulikoro and Kayes, as well as national data. This study, which is primarily qualitative, will make it possible to update both the programme's results framework and the theory of change.

## 3.2. Collection methodology :

It is a descriptive, qualitative, cross-sectional and evaluative study. It is based on the collection of secondary data through documentary research and primary data through individual and focus group interviews.

### 3.2.1. Framing of the mission :

The main objective of this study is to conduct an analysis of the national and regional landscape around the Right2Grow project in order to establish a baseline for all qualitative and quantitative indicators. The study allows to align the programmatic choice (interventions) with the Theory of Change (ToC) and the multi-annual strategy of the Netherlands Embassy in Mali.

The specific actions are defined as follows:

- Conduct a landscape analysis of barriers to nutrition and WASH (from a gender and inclusion perspective), including a review of relevant policies;
- Carry out a stakeholder mapping, i.e. the Dutch Embassy, major donors, key government departments, the private sector;
- Carry out a capacity assessment of partners (taking into account the results of the capacity assessment carried out by the capacity building team);
- Carry out a formative evaluation

### 3.2.2. Literature review :

It took place throughout the process. It consisted of a review of national strategic documents and frameworks in the field of nutrition and washing. This work made it possible to have access to major national data but also information from studies on similar themes.

It covered documents such as SMART 2020, ENSAN, National Nutrition Policy (PNN) 2010-2021, National Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition (PNSAN) 2005-2009, National Strategy for Food Security in Mali (SNSA) 2002-2015, Analysis of the Mapping of Stakeholders Involved in NRM, November 2014, REACH\_MLI\_Report\_Evaluation-des-besoins-en-EHA-Juillet-2021, CREDD May 2015, EMOP 2021 etc.

It allowed the collection of secondary data related to a better understanding of the environment of the survey areas, the habits of the populations and better interpretations of the results of the primary data collection.

### 3.2.3. Sampling :

The study is based on non-probability sampling. The targets selected are the following:

- Communities (wives of malnourished children, heads of households of malnourished children, pregnant women, lactating women, traditional therapists, community leaders/villagers, men/women-producers, marginalized and vulnerable groups/children/youth aged 13-18);
- Local authorities (town halls/communal councils)
- Community-based organisations (CBOs)/groups (Community Health Association-ASACO, Nutrition Support Groups-GSAN, Community Health Workers-ASC, community relays, cereal banks, WASH Committees/Drinking Water Users Association-UWU or Water Point Management Committee-WPMC, Pupils' Mothers Association-AME, Risk and Disaster Management Committee)
- NGOs/CSOs/Projects/Programs involved (Projects/programs involved in undernutrition/WASH, CAFO, Youth Associations, Women, People with disabilities, local NGOs)
- Technical services for agriculture and livestock.
- International NGO members of the Right2Grow Consortium
- Donors

Targets	ASACO	Grain banks	Water Point Management Committee	Cooperatives	GSAN /Relay	Collect . Territ.	Mothers of malnourished children	Technical services for agriculture and livestock	Community groups nautary	Total
# of interviews	29	18	18	17	22	17	30	6	31	188
# minimum number of participants	174	36	72	68	44	34	30	6	186	650

### 3.2.4. Development of data collection tools:

In total, 7 interview guides were developed, one for each type of target (NGOs/CSOs/Projects/Programs, Coordination of Private Water and Sanitation

Actors, Community Leaders, CBOs, Women, Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups, Officials of Government Technical and Administrative Services, Elected Officials, Communities). An analysis grid was also developed to facilitate data collection.

### **3.2.5. Recruitment and training of interviewers :**

Before the actual start of the baseline study, and once the tools had been validated, the CEFODES consultants proceeded to recruit and train the interviewers.

A total of 12 interviewers were recruited for the 24 communes covered by the survey. The criteria used were experience in conducting similar surveys and knowledge of the designated areas (languages, customs, practices etc.). The training of the interviewers took place from 13 to 14 August 2021 at CEFODES in Bamako. It ensured the level of understanding of each interviewer regarding the objectives of the evaluation, the survey methods, the sampling strategy, the use of collection tools, and the roles and responsibilities in data collection. Following this workshop, a test day (day two) of the collection tools took place and ensured that the main terms were reworded and translated into Bambara.

### **3.2.6. Field mission :**

It took place in October 2021 in the 24 project communes across the regions of Koulikoro, Kayes, Sikasso and Koutiala. It started with the deployment of the teams in the field, then the conduct of interviews (individual and focus group), combined with the supervision of the field data collection and finally the data entry in the collection formats. The team consisted of two (2) experts from CEFODES and eight (8) facilitators/interviewers. The facilitators/investigators conducted interviews with NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, leaders, communities, women, marginalised and vulnerable groups, etc., and focus groups. The experts conducted interviews with representatives of technical services, humanitarian agencies/donors. In addition to his other tasks, the expert coordinator, head of mission, ensured the deployment of facilitators/investigators in the field, the implementation of the surveys and the quality review of the data collected. The surveys took place over a period of 4 weeks. The survey also involved 15 people, including a coordinator, an assistant coordinator and 13 data collectors in four regions (four in Sikasso, four in Kayes, three in Koulikoro and two in Bamako). Collection started on 20/08/21 and ended on 31/08/21. However, in Bamako and with the CSOs, collection continued until the end of September 2021.

As a prelude to the field interviews, information letters were sent to the various stakeholders, including the target groups, on the mission schedule, in order to facilitate the work of the interviewers.

### **3.2.6.1. Conducting the survey :**

The survey itself took place in October 2021. It concerned the 24 communes of the project. The interviewers were distributed among the 4 regions. Each interviewer had the role of conducting individual interviews and focus groups in one area. Supervision was carried out in two ways: remotely by telephone and through visits to the survey sites.

### **3.2.6.2. Individual interviews :**

48 individual interviews were conducted. They were directed at community leaders, technical services and communities. They were very well received by the interviewees, who used them as a forum to express their concerns about the nutritional situation in their respective localities. They also mentioned the need for training and materials to carry out their mission.

### **3.2.6.3. Focus groups :**

59 focus groups were held in the 24 communes of the study. They were directed towards men's groups, women's groups, GSANs, community relays and cooperatives. They enabled the collection of very useful information on the knowledge, practices and concerns of the populations on nutrition and the Wash.

### **3.2.7. Limitations of the methodology and difficulties encountered:**

As this was a qualitative study, only a small part of the population was involved. This sample may not contain all the characteristics of the parent population. The absence of figures does not allow the frequency of occurrence to be calculated. Appointments postponed or cancelled due to lack of availability of technical services in Kayes, Sikasso and Koulikoro.

The main difficulties in collecting information :

- The refusal of some targeted individuals to answer questions;
- Input problem: some data are not complete;
- Concerns about translating interviewees' answers: there is a lot of repetition even when the questions are not the same;
- Concern for diversity of responses in focus groups: some interviewees tend to align their positions with that of the first respondent.

## 4. ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY

### 4.1. Typical analysis of interviewees

#### 4.1.1. Breakdown by type of interview

In the course of the study, 48 individual interviews were conducted against focus 59 groups. The selection of participants for the various interviews was done in the most inclusive way possible according to the methodology. Women participated extensively in the process through the women's focus groups, focus groups with community leaders, interviews with traditional healers and mothers of malnourished children. As a result of these interviews, several obstacles related to access to high nutritional value food and to water, hygiene and sanitation services emerged.

#### Barriers to access to high nutritional value foods

##### a. Traditional healers

Barriers	Recommendation
Lack of agricultural equipment	Awareness raising/training of farmers in new techniques Provision of improved seeds Reforestation
Lack of road	
Lack of a market garden site	
Poor Seasonal Performance	
No market gardening	
Poverty	
High cost of products	
Exports of products	

Table 4 Obstacles to food accessibility according to tradithérapeutes

##### b. GSANs and Community Relays

Barriers
Breaking
Low rainfall
Lack of agricultural equipment
Lack of agricultural inputs
High cost of products
Low efficiency
Grand total

Table 5 Obstacles to access to high nutritional value foods according to community relays and ANSGs

#### Barriers to dietary diversification (variation of dishes) within the household

The obstacles cited at this level revolve around low production, household poverty and lack of knowledge of good food diversification practices.

#### Barriers to access to water, hygiene and sanitation

Barriers
Lack of drinking water
Financial Poverty

Lack of local labour for maintenance and repair of water points
Lack of knowledge about essential hygiene practices
Frequent break in water supply

**Table 6 Obstacles to access to water, hygiene and sanitation according to community relays and ANSGs**

### **Recommendations to reduce malnutrition in children under five, pregnant and lactating women**

Obstacles recommendations
Financial and material support
Support/advice to local authorities and technical services
Involvement of all stakeholders
Accountability of ANSGs
Capacity building for ANSGs

**Table 7 Recommendations according to the community relays and the GSANs**

Discussions with the GSANs and community relays highlighted the following obstacles to accessing food products as well as water, hygiene and sanitation:

- The main obstacles to accessing food products are: low rainfall, lack of agricultural equipment and inputs, low soil yields, and the high cost of products.
- Concerning the obstacles to access to water, hygiene and sanitation, the following were identified: supply concerns, poverty, lack of local labour to repair infrastructure, low knowledge of essential hygiene practices.

The recommendations formulated by the interviewees revolve around financial and material support, support/advice from communities and technical services, better involvement of all actors, capacity building and better accountability of the ANSGs in nutrition activities.

#### **c. Water Point Management Committees**

##### **Current barriers/challenges to accessing water, hygiene and sanitation services**

The water point management committees we met found that the major obstacles to access to water, hygiene and sanitation services are: frequent water supply breaks, the obsolescence and lack of maintenance of the facilities, the still very high cost of water and poor management. They suggest organising awareness-raising, training and advice for all actors, training local technicians to repair/maintain water points, building the capacity of water point management committees (partnership, budget advocacy and organisation) and conducting new installations and renovations of water points.

The main advocacy actions proposed are capacity building of water point management committees in internal governance and budget advocacy.

**a. Cooperatives :**

The cooperatives interviewed identified the following as the main obstacles to supplying the markets: rising prices, low quantity and quality of production, shortages/shortages of stock and poor harvests. Their recommendations focused on: supporting producers with agricultural inputs and materials, creating spaces for exchange/information/partnerships and strengthening the capacity of cooperatives in budget management and advocacy.

**b. Livestock Technical Services :**

According to the technical services for livestock, the obstacles to accessing animal products are storage difficulties, lack of interest in the sector, and lack of qualified people. They find that the obstacles to production are the difficulties in marketing, the lack of knowledge of modern production techniques and the lack of coordination with technical services. They propose as recommendations to facilitate access to animal vaccination, to support producers in the packaging and sale of products, to build/refurbish watering points, and to sensitise and train producers on breeding techniques.

**c. Town Halls and Communal Councils :**

These include insufficient maintenance of water points and awareness-raising activities, financial resources and monitoring of technical services. The secretaries-general of the town halls or communal councillors approached find that the major obstacles and challenges in terms of access to water, hygiene and sanitation services are: the lack of maintenance of water points, the inadequacy of awareness-raising activities, the lack of monitoring of technical services and the inadequacy of financial resources.

In the context of the nutrition of children under 5 years of age, they recommend: awareness-raising/training of actors, support for the local production of fortified foods, promotion of the consumption of local products, support for civil society in its specialisation in nutrition issues and finally support in the search for funding.

**d. Technical Services of Agriculture :**

The technical agricultural services approached highlighted the following obstacles: poverty, poor land yields and the lack of qualified labour due to the exodus and the lack of continuous training. They also underlined recommendations: motivate the agents of the technical service of agriculture, support the producers with inputs

(fertilisers, urea, etc.) and improved seeds, increase the number of technical agents in the field and finally reinforce the production capacities of the farmers.

#### e. Cereal Bank

With regard to the obstacles to food availability, interviews with cereal banks revealed that the obstacles to food availability are: non-repayment of amounts borrowed from the fund, misappropriation of funds and lack of equipment and agricultural inputs. They recommend technical and financial support, a better commitment from the town hall, a renewal of committee members, and capacity building for the management committees.

#### f. Ministry of the Budget - Local Authorities

Municipality	Contact person	Budget	Annual budget	Health and nutrition budget	Health and nutrition budget
Kignan	Secretary General, Moumouni KONE Tel: 75 11 57 61	2019	583 483 814	22 094 335	3,79
		2020	643 739 734	37 574 535	5,84
		2021	857 686 691	34 954 000	4,08
N'Golonia nasso	Kalifa COULIBALY, Secretary Tel: 76 05 94 69 / 62 44 33 65	2019	228 461 750	4 000 000	1,75
		2020	259 579 625	4 000 000	1,54
		2021	298 139 200	2 000 000	0,67
M'Pessoba	Mamadou COULIBALY Tel: 71 75 76 59	2019	761 734 132	32 436 248	4,26
		2020	1 055 076 726	31 612 448	3,00
		2021	1 322 810 805	32 568 248	2,46

Table 8 Summary of budget information collected from communities

The last column of the above table relating to the communal budget and the share of health/nutrition illustrates (through these rotating rates between 0.67% and 6%) the low financing of health. Given that it is not possible to plot nutrition forecasts easily, one can imagine the very low financing of nutrition activities by the communal budget.

**g. Summary of results :**

Table 9 Summary of information on accountability spaces collected from communities

Targets	Findings	Recommendations
Traditherapists and communities	<p>Low awareness of nutrition and washing rights, good handwashing practices with soap and nutritious foods.</p> <p>Concerning food products: the high cost of products, poverty, lack of agricultural materials and roads</p>	<p>Reforestation, awareness raising/training of farmers in new techniques and provision of improved seeds.</p>
GSANs and Community Relays	<p>Concerning food products, the following factors are at play: low rainfall, lack of agricultural equipment and inputs, low soil yields, and the high cost of products.</p> <p>Concerning the barriers to water, hygiene and sanitation, the following were identified: supply concerns, poverty, lack of local labour to repair infrastructure, low knowledge of essential hygiene practices.</p>	<p>Financial and material support, support/advice from local authorities and technical services, better involvement of all actors, capacity building and better accountability of the ANSGs.</p>

Targets	Findings	Recommendations
Water Point Management Committees	Frequent breaks in water supply, the obsolescence and lack of maintenance of facilities, the still very high cost of water and poor management.	Awareness raising, training and advice for all stakeholders, training local technicians for the repair/maintenance of water points, building the capacity of water point management committees (partnership, budget advocacy and organisation) and conducting new installations and renovations of water points.
Cooperatives	Rising prices, low quantity and quality of production, shortages/shortages and poor harvests.	Support for producers in terms of inputs and agricultural materials, the creation of exchange/information/partnership spaces and capacity building of cooperatives in resource management and budgetary advocacy for financial support from the communal and national budget.
Livestock Technical Services	The difficulties of storage, the lack of interest in the sector, the lack of qualified people. They find that the obstacles to production are the difficulties in selling the products, the lack of knowledge of modern production techniques and the lack of coordination with the technical services.	Facilitate access to animal vaccination, support producers in the packaging and sale of products, build/refurbish watering points, raise awareness and train producers on breeding techniques.

Targets	Findings	Recommendations
Town Halls and Communal Councils	Lack of maintenance of water points, insufficient awareness-raising activities, lack of follow-up by technical services and insufficient financial resources.	Awareness-raising/training of stakeholders, support for the local production of fortified foods, promotion of the consumption of local products, support for civil society in its specialisation in nutrition issues and finally support in the search for funding.
Cereal Bank Managers	The non-repayment of the amounts borrowed from the fund, the embezzlement of funds and the lack of agricultural equipment and inputs.	Technical and financial support, better commitment from the town hall, renewal of committee members, capacity building of management committees.

## 4.2. Analysis by region and by theme :

### 4.2.1. Availability

#### Products of agricultural/farming origin

Stakeholders were asked whether food was available in their community all year round. Generally speaking, in all the communes where the R2G Project is active, the majority of stakeholders (except Sikasso) report that communities are unable to ensure food availability all year round. However, the number of months of adequate food supply varies from one region to another, ranging from six (6) to twelve (12) months. In Sikasso, while the majority of actors report food availability for 12 months/12, the quantities of stocks are insufficient during the lean season.

In the localities (communes/quartiers) of **Bamako**, the majority of actors report that there is not enough food available to households all year round. The reasons are linked, among others, to unemployment/poverty (high food and non-food expenses such as housing, electricity, water, transport in relation to household income), the high cost of foodstuffs, the lack of arable land for households; hence the need to study ways of promoting peri-urban agriculture (gardening/cropping on the roofs of houses, etc.)

In **Kayes**, food shortages generally begin six (6) months after the harvest. According to the majority of respondents, this is due to the low rainfall in the region and/or the drought that causes the plants to wither, resulting in poor harvests that do not guarantee food availability throughout the year. Other obstacles include the lack of agricultural equipment among farmers, the lack of agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, vulnerabilities related to disasters and climate change, and the lack of supervision of farmers. On the other hand, young people (able-bodied) tend to migrate and/or work in the mines to the detriment of agriculture.

In **Koulikoro**, the majority of respondents say that communities do not ensure year-round food availability. The most cited obstacles are low rainfall/drought and climate change leading to poor harvests or low yields, access to/rarity of arable land/poor soil. Others mention the lack of material and financial means to access agricultural inputs and equipment. Finally, as an obstacle, gardening occupies an important place in the production activities carried out in part by the young people, with crops destined largely for sale to the detriment of self-consumption of food in the communities.

In **Sikasso**, most stakeholders report that food is available all year round. However, the quantities of foodstuffs are not sufficient at certain times of the year, particularly between July and September according to the communities and the cereal banks. The difficulties, according to the majority of respondents, are due to soaring food prices during the lean season. Among the obstacles to food availability, the stakeholders mention the excessive sale of agricultural/market gardening production after the harvest, which compromises food availability in quantity during the winter season. In fact, the portion intended for self-consumption is often sold to cover non-food needs that are often unnecessary compared to food needs (purchase of motorbikes, solar energy devices, televisions, telephones, excessive spending during ceremonies such as

weddings, etc.); hence the need to support farmers in the post-harvest management of their agricultural/market production. In other words, it is a question of ensuring that these farmers have a post-harvest management plan with sufficient stocks to cover their food needs throughout the year.

In **summary**, in most localities, the factors of climate change/drought and the lack of supervision of farmers are the main obstacles to food availability. Farmers need to be supervised during all phases of cultivation (**preparation** phase: sowing adapted to the climate, soil preparation, sowing periods; **cultivation** phase: mastery of meteorological information, technical management and **post-harvest** phase: record keeping, post-harvest management including risk management, conservation of agricultural or market produce, processing of agricultural produce, mastery of market information) and the isolation of certain areas such as Mahina by the river, which leads to difficulties in food supply, especially during periods of flooding.

In addition, climate-resilient agricultural techniques such as the adoption of composting/agro-ecology/assisted natural regeneration (ANR)/agroforestry/climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices should be popularised. Particular emphasis should be placed on the extension of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices through, among others, reforestation, erosion control, crop rotation, adoption of appropriate crop residue management practices, use of organic manure of animal origin, increased access to extension services and/or information/advice on CSA adoption, increased access to weather information; creation of mechanisms for increased access to advice/information on weather-based crop insurance; organisation of agricultural fairs (seed fairs) or field days or exhibitions during the season.

Advocacy should be made to integrate into national, regional and local plans (down to the village/field level), actions to respond to the vulnerabilities of communities: Composting/agro-ecology/assisted natural regeneration/climate-smart agriculture, erosion control, crop rotation, reforestation with emphasis on planting species (drought-resistant) with high added value or high nutritional value such as Moringa for a balanced diet, rich and varied in macro- and micro-nutrients at household level. The slogan could even be "*One family, one moringa plant*". Reforestation days could be organised with this in mind, particularly on World Environment Day, celebrated every year on 5 June.

### **Animal products**

The various stakeholders were asked whether animal products (meat and milk) are available in their community all year round. Generally speaking, in all the communes where the R2G Project is active, meat is available all year round. In most communes, milk is only available in quantity during the winter months. Some dairy processing cooperatives find it difficult to obtain milk supplies, especially in the dry season. The

main obstacles to livestock production are related to the high prices of livestock inputs such as feed (oilcake, fodder), medicines (vitamins, antibiotics, vaccines, etc.), the cost of purchasing productive animals, and the lack of grazing land. Unlike agriculture, these obstacles to livestock production are common to all regions except Bamako where the major problem is the lack of space for livestock.

In summary, animal production mechanisms do not favour the availability of food in quantity and quality for reasons linked to the high cost of livestock inputs, hence the need to find formulas based on local products with high nutritional value for animals, including products that promote animal health (moringa, nettle, cauliflower, etc.).

#### 4.2.2. Food access

The various actors were asked to say whether there is year-round food accessibility. In general, communities experience enormous difficulties in terms of food access, especially during the winter months when food prices rise for both agricultural and animal products. Indeed, markets are poorly supplied, especially during the winter period, and in general there is no price regulation mechanism. Although there are some in certain localities with the involvement of the authorities (e.g. Lontou town hall in the Kayes region), the prices of foodstuffs are not respected, which compromises food accessibility from a financial perspective. It should also be noted that producers are not able to produce all year round.

In the localities (neighbourhoods/communes) of **Bamako**, food prices (of animal and agricultural origin) are high. The national context marked by insecurity in the interior of the country, especially in the conflict zones which are also known as livestock breeding areas, has considerably affected the adequate supply of foodstuffs in general and meat in particular to urban markets. Also, the soaring price of livestock feed has had an impact on the soaring price of animals. In Bamako, despite the establishment of a price regulation mechanism, it is clear that the fixed prices/floors are not respected.

In the **Kayes** localities, the main obstacles are low agricultural/market gardening production, high food prices partly due to the lack of roads (e.g., the railway stoppage in the locality of Mahina in the Kayes region) and/or the high cost of transport, especially during the winter period, the low supply of foodstuffs to the markets, especially during the winter period, and the absence of a price regulation mechanism or the failure to respect ceiling prices. In the locality of Mahina (specifically in the village of Diallola), an agricultural production cooperative mentioned the failure of traders to respect the price ceilings set, as follows "***The prices of foodstuffs are regulated by the town hall, but traders do not respect these rules***" (Agricultural production cooperative, Diallola, Mahina). According to the Yéleni Cooperative Society in Bafoulabé, the market is poorly supplied with foodstuffs in the winter period because of low production (due to low rainfall and a massive departure of the agricultural workforce to the gold-mining sites). For this cooperative, there is no price regulation mechanism at the market level,

as follows **"There is no price regulation mechanism in the market. There is a laissez-faire attitude and this must change"** (Yéleni Cooperative). On the other hand, according to the agricultural cooperative in Lontou, food prices rise during the winter period and become increasingly unaffordable during this period. With regard to prices, **'Only the cereal banks respect the prices set, otherwise the market is not regulated'** (Source: Lontou Agricultural Cooperative). In general, most cereal banks are functional with a year-round food supply at regulated prices. However, some cereal banks are bankrupt due to a lack of regular supplies and/or non-repayment of loans. Difficulties related to storage conditions (pest control) have been reported at some cereal banks.

In **Koulikoro**, the main obstacles are the high cost of food due to low agricultural and livestock production. Access to livestock inputs remains a challenge according to the communities. Among the obstacles to food supply, markets are poorly supplied with dairy products, especially at the beginning of the winter season when cows are generally overweight and therefore produce little milk. According to Tienfala Socolait, *'milk is available in quality and quantity. We supply the market all year round, but we have a period of reduced production at the beginning of the winter season.* There is no price regulation mechanism according to most of the actors in general and the cooperatives in particular, as follows **"There are no price regulation mechanisms. Once the prices of products go up, they do not come down easily'**. (Source: Tienfala Socolait)

In addition, in the majority of localities in the Koulikoro region, the cereal banks are not fully operational (inadequate supply, loss of food due to poor storage conditions).

In **Sikasso**, communities have limited access to nutritious food between July, August and early September due to high food prices during these periods. There is a fluctuation in food prices on the market at different times. There is food access from November to April. However, the inability of producers to produce throughout the year affects the proper supply of food to the markets between May and October; and as a result, food prices in general and vegetables in particular rise during this period. This affects the purchasing power of communities. The following statement illustrates this situation: *"Producers do not have the capacity to produce all year round. The markets are well supplied during the first four months of the year (January to April) and after this period when the markets are poorly supplied, vegetable prices rise from May to October.* (Néré and Karité processing cooperative, Mpéssoba). Mechanisms should be put in place to allow farmers (cooperatives, companies) to produce in all seasons through the gradual introduction of greenhouse farming, for example. Indeed, several crops are not adapted to the climate in the hot season (tomatoes, onions, etc.). Another alternative would be to select and produce vegetables that are adapted to the climate so that markets are supplied 12 months out of 12 with foodstuffs in general and vegetables in particular. This option will promote price stability in the market and increase food accessibility in the communities.

On the other hand, there is no price regulation mechanism according to the majority of actors. If they do exist, they are not functional, according to the following statement: **"There is no price regulation mechanism in the market. Prices are set by the buyers and producers have no choice because they have to sell their products"**. (Source: Cooperative Koda CCPV - Cooperative for the production and sale of agricultural products, Koutiala).

Price regulation mechanisms generally exist at the level of the cereal banks, which are generally supplied throughout the year. For example, in the village of Bobola in the commune of Zangasso (Koutiala), the prices of foodstuffs are set by the cereal bank's management committee in conjunction with the town hall, as are the conditions of access to these foodstuffs. There is good cooperation between the cereal bank and the town hall in this locality, as follows: "We have a committee that sets the selling price and the selling period, as well as the conditions of access together with the town hall. For the moment, there are no major challenges in the cereal bank's activities. The town hall is informed of all activities and we report to them regularly. They have built a storage warehouse for the cereal bank's management committee. (Source: Cereal bank, Bobola, Zangasso, Koutiala).

In the locality of N'goloniasso in Koutiala, foodstuffs are available all year round at the cereal bank. There is a consultation framework involving the town hall for setting prices.

#### 4.2.3. Food use

##### **Appreciation of the amount of food consumed in the communities**

Dairy products and other nutritious foods (e.g., leafy vegetables) are available in most areas between October/November and April. The quantities of food consumed are acceptable during this period. However, in most regions the quantities of food consumed are insufficient between May and September. This is due to several of the food availability and access constraints listed above (low production, poor post-harvest management, low market supply, lack of a mechanism to ensure 12-month agricultural/market production).

##### **Priority for consumption in communities**

In general, while priority in food consumption is given to children and women (as is the case in Bamako and Kayes), this is not the case in the Sikasso and Koulikoro regions. Indeed, in the Sikasso region, while a minority of respondents give **"priority to children and women in terms of food consumption because they take care of breastfeeding and child nutrition"** (cf. In **our village, it is the heads of household who have priority because they are the ones who make decisions"** (FDG women, village of Dendiola I, commune of

M'pessoba, Koutiala) or "***adults and sometimes children have priority in terms of food consumption***". (FDG women, village of Niaradougou, commune of Danderesso, Sikasso).

In Koulikoro, the analysis indicates that priority is given to children and the elderly.

In addition to children and women, some report that the elderly are a priority for food consumption in their communities.

### **Food consumption patterns.**

In most cases in all the localities of the 28 communes (Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso), the majority of respondents report that food (vegetables and fruit) is washed before consumption. However, in most localities (except Bamako), focus group participants rarely mentioned any disinfectant used to wash vegetables and fruit (bleach, permanganate, etc.).

### **Food diversification**

In most localities, food unavailability and food access are cited as the main obstacles to food diversification, especially during periods of low agricultural/market gardening production. Thus, households with low to low-middle incomes find it difficult to diversify food during this period or to obtain rich foods with high nutritional value (milk, meat, fruit, eggs). It should be remembered that markets are in short supply while food prices are rising at the same time. The cultivation and consumption of local (drought-resistant) species rich in macro- and micronutrients (beans, moringa, baobab leaves, etc.) should be promoted. The conditions should be created so that foodstuffs are abundant in the markets, thus maintaining stable and affordable prices at the community level.

#### **4.2.4. Barriers to health/nutrition**

Across the regions, stakeholders unanimously identified malaria and malnutrition as the main diseases affecting children in the communities. In addition to malaria and malnutrition, dysentery/stomach ache/diarrhoea and Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) are also among the main illnesses affecting children in almost all localities, although there are some small disparities between regions.

In Bamako, the majority of actors mention malaria and diseases related to poor hygiene (stomach aches) as the main diseases among children. In Sikasso, communities cite malaria, malnutrition, diarrhoea and Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) as the main illnesses affecting children, while in Kayes and Koulikoro regions, malaria and malnutrition are cited as the main illnesses affecting children.

As obstacles/causes of malaria, communities mention the proliferation of mosquitoes, a poorly sanitised environment, and the low use of insecticide-treated bed nets. For

some respondents in Sikasso, "*children do not go to bed early at night, are bitten by mosquitoes before going to bed and expose themselves to the risk of malaria contamination*".

As key factors of malnutrition, the vast majority of communities mention poor nutrition (low consumption of vitamin-rich foods, low dietary variation, poor nutritional and dietary monitoring of children, lack of food hygiene, lack of awareness of the causes of malnutrition).

Diarrhoea is a leading cause of death in children under five. It is estimated that 50 per cent of undernutrition is due to recurrent diarrhoea<sup>7</sup>. Also, the risk of mortality increases tenfold in the presence of diarrhoeal disease and severe acute malnutrition. An analysis of the links between malnutrition and environmental factors in Mali using MICS - 2015 survey data confirms the significant influence of environmental conditions on the nutritional status of children under five. This justifies the need to integrate Water-Hygiene-Sanitation (WASH) interventions in the fight against malnutrition in Mali, and to select ambitious and comprehensive (transformative) WASH interventions aimed at interrupting the entire causal chains and minimizing the risk of contamination.

For Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), communities report poor protection of children such as exposure to weather/wind. However, during the focus group interviews at the community level, key factors such as children's exposure to toxic substances (such as tobacco/kitchen smoke), measles vaccination for example, or children's exposure to sick people or objects touched by them, were not mentioned at the community level as key factors for ARI.

#### **4.2.5. Main health problems affecting communities (children and adults)**

In the majority of Right2Grow's intervention areas, the main health problems in the community are related to malaria among the population in general and among children in particular, malnutrition and diarrhoea. Among adults, some cite diabetes and blood pressure as the main health problems in adults. The main causes of these conditions in adults are closely related to dietary hygiene (eating too much salt or sugar). Others also cite stomach infections as the main health problems due, according to some respondents, to "the use of chemical fertilisers and other chemical pesticides".

On the other hand, among the major obstacles to health, in most localities, health care and services are not affordable at the health facility level due to the limited financial means in the communities.

#### **4.2.6. Community perceptions, knowledge, attitudes and behaviour towards malnutrition**

##### **Malnutrition as a disease**

In most locations (Kayes, Sikasso and Bamako), the majority of respondents believe that malnutrition is not a disease but is rather related to undernourishment and behaviour (food hygiene, dietary diversification, consumption of nutrient-rich foods).

Some also report that malnutrition is not a disease but can cause other diseases such as malaria insofar as the malnourished child, lacking vitamins or nutrients, becomes weak and exposed to diseases. In Kayes, for example, some focus group participants reported that **"malnutrition is not a disease but rather hunger/famine"**.

In Koulikoro, opinions are divided. Some say that malnutrition is not a disease but rather "a lack of vitamins in the body", while others believe that "malnutrition is indeed a disease that can cause other diseases in children".

In response to the question of whether malnutrition is different from other diseases, the majority of respondents (traditional healers, community leaders, male and female respondents, mothers of malnourished children) felt that the difference between malnutrition and other diseases is in certain symptoms such as "weight loss (thinness)", "sagging of certain parts of the body".

### **Knowledge of the signs and forms of malnutrition**

The majority of respondents (traditional healers, community leaders, male and female respondents, mothers of malnourished children) defined malnutrition as "the lack of nutrients in the body of children". The majority of them believe that "thinness or low body weight, swollen feet/presence of oedema and frequent small or sickness" are the main signs of malnutrition in children. Most of them are not aware of all forms of malnutrition, although they state that there are "methods and equipment for detecting malnutrition".

In Bamako, the majority of respondents say that a malnourished child can be recognised by the colour of the hair and weight loss (underweight). In Kayes, as in Koulikoro, the most common form of malnutrition is severe acute malnutrition and weight loss (underweight). In Sikasso, malnourished children are recognised through the bloating of the stomach, the eyes, the children's corpulence, the age/weight ratio, weight loss and screening.

The dimensions "height/age ratio", "weight/height", "weight/age" or "presence of oedema" in children under 5 years of age were not clearly addressed during the focus group discussions in the various localities; hence the need to strengthen capacities to detect signs and forms of malnutrition.

### **Knowledge of the causes of malnutrition**

In all of R2G's localities/communes of intervention, the main causes of malnutrition are linked to poverty (poor availability of and access to vitamin-rich food throughout the year), poor nutrition (consumption of food with vitamin and mineral deficiencies, poor dietary diversification), negligence on the part of some in monitoring the nutritional status of their children, and the ignorance of parents in general with regard to the prevention of malnutrition: knowledge of the signs of malnutrition and the preparation of food supplements rich in vitamins and minerals

In addition to the above-mentioned causes common to all regions, other causes were cited by respondents (traditional therapists, community leaders, male and female respondents, mothers of malnourished children) exclusively in the Sikasso region, namely: early weaning, poor nutrition of the mother during pregnancy, and failure to respect birth spacing. Causes such as poor food distribution within households, unavailability of food rich in micronutrients/proteins, food hygiene and/or infectious and parasitic diseases among children, including measles and diarrhoea, failure to respect birth spacing, and poor health coverage of the population in certain localities, Vulnerability factors such as natural disasters, the low participation of pregnant women in prenatal consultations (CPN) or the issue of assisted childbirth are real causes of malnutrition that were not sufficiently or not at all mentioned during the discussions in all the localities visited, except in Sikasso.

### **Attitudes and behaviours towards the prevention of malnutrition**

According to the majority of respondents, as soon as they recognise a malnourished child, they refer it to the community health centre (CSCoM). As a means to prevent children from becoming malnourished, they recommend giving advice to mothers on feeding their children. For the ComHAs, community relays, ANHMs and health workers, exclusive breastfeeding practices remain a priority, even if there is a beginning of awareness of the importance of this practice in relation to the health and good nutrition of children. In addition, there is a lack of knowledge about complementary foods with high nutritional potential, as well as their preparation to prevent malnutrition in children aged 6 to 23 months (use of the three food groups, including the consumption of foods rich in nutrients and energy).

On the other hand, it should be noted that the Nutrition Activity Support Groups (NASGs) do not exist in all villages, and if they do exist, their functionality is questionable (weak cooking demonstration). Furthermore, for the majority of nutrition actors, malnourished children are often referred to health centres late in order to benefit from adequate care and at the right time.

With regard to dietary practices during pregnancy or breastfeeding, the changes noted in recent years have been in the diet of pregnant or breastfeeding women (consumption of a variety of foods) thanks to the products resulting from the intensification of market gardening activities. However, it should be remembered that such vitamin-rich foods (vegetables, fruit, meat, etc.) are not available and accessible during the period from May to October/November each year.

### **Periods/seasons with high prevalence of malnutrition**

In all localities/regions, the winter season is the season with the highest prevalence of malnutrition during the year, as most communities have difficulty covering their food needs during this period (stock shortages affecting food availability and access); hence the need for measures to increase the number of months of adequate food supply.

Among these measures, agroecology, assisted natural regeneration, climate-smart agriculture and the control of the different phases of cultivation are options to be explored in the advocacy against undernutrition.

### **Categories of children vulnerable to malnutrition**

In all regions, it is reported that children from poor families (low or limited income) are more likely to suffer from malnutrition due to factors related to food unavailability, vulnerabilities, low purchasing power of nutritious food. However, there are different views on the link between poverty and malnutrition. For some, poor households on limited incomes may have well-nourished and healthy children, while wealthy families exist with malnourished children. This may be due to the large number of children to be fed on the one hand, and to inappropriate feeding behaviours in both rich and poor families on the other.

Furthermore, some respondents felt that children whose caregivers are third parties other than their biological mothers are more vulnerable to malnutrition. These include orphaned children, abandoned children, etc.

### **Categories of women/mothers vulnerable to malnutrition**

In all regions, respondents at the community level consider that breastfeeding women, young mothers and mothers with disabilities are the most vulnerable to malnutrition. Furthermore, in the Kayes and Sikasso regions, according to some respondents, pregnant women without good nutrition, women not participating in ANC and pregnant women of advanced age (40 years and over) are the most vulnerable to malnutrition. However, in the Kayes region, the majority of respondents report that young mothers (early marriage) are vulnerable to malnutrition, as are their children. This vulnerability is partly explained by low knowledge and inexperience in preventing malnutrition. Communities should therefore be made aware of the consequences of early marriage on maternal and child health/nutrition, especially the risks of maternal and child mortality caused by this bad practice. Communities should also be made to understand that early marriages are a violation of the rights of girls and are likely to harm the well-being of young mothers and the whole community suffers the consequences.

Finally, with regard to the link between literacy and malnutrition, the majority of respondents in all regions felt that children of illiterate or out-of-school mothers are more vulnerable to malnutrition because of ignorance and poor access to information on good practices and national standards for the prevention and management of malnutrition. Therefore, it would be wise to ensure that existing or future mechanisms are fully operational to ensure that illiterate women have the opportunity to benefit from awareness/communication/outreach channels (e.g. GSAN) on the prevention and management of malnutrition.

## **Exclusive breastfeeding practice**

In all regions (Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso), the majority of respondents (traditional therapists, community leaders, male and female respondents, mothers of malnourished children) say that exclusive breastfeeding is a "good thing" in view of its importance and its contribution to the positive development of children in terms of nutrition and health. Thanks to awareness-raising by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and health workers, communities are increasingly beginning to adopt the practice.

However, some men accuse women of *"being lazy and replacing breast milk with bottles"* or *"stopping breastfeeding early before six months"* or *"combining other foods than breast milk"*. Other men (although rare) report that *"we say that breastfeeding is important for children's health/nutrition but we have abandoned our culture in favour of that of the West"*.

In addition, the majority of mothers of malnourished children in the four regions report having given their child breast milk from birth and say that they have breastfed exclusively for six months. In general, after six (6) months, the majority of mothers said they had introduced other foods such as porridge, potatoes, fish, etc. into their babies' diet. However, some mothers associated breast milk with foods that were inappropriate for their babies' diets as follows: *"As a supplemental food, I gave rice to my baby at the age of 4 months"* (Source, ST, mother of child screened as malnourished, Koulikoro).

## **Accessibility of information and advice channels :**

According to the men, the different communication channels are accessible because the community health relays and Community Health Workers (CHWs) are in different localities and carry out screening activities, monitoring cases of malnutrition etc. and/or improving community health (deworming, vitamin A supplementation, treatment of diarrhoea, malaria). Radio stations broadcast information to prevent malnutrition and health workers provide curative care in health facilities (Centre de Santé de Référence-CSRéf, Centre de Santé Communautaire-CSCoM). However, it should be noted that in the absence of a mechanism to provide financial support to the Relais, they are obliged to go about their business to meet the needs of their families, which compromises their availability at certain times when communities need their assistance. It would therefore be wise to ensure that advocacy can focus on a mechanism to motivate Relais/CSAs involving village leaders, Community Health Associations (ASACO) and town halls to provide a budget line to motivate Relais. This motivation could be monthly, quarterly or half-yearly in the worst case.

### 4.3. LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS OF BARRIERS TO NUTRITION AND EHA (GENDER AND INCLUSION)

The main obstacles related to water, hygiene and sanitation are management problems or mechanisms to maintain the functionality of facilities. This results in a low commitment from communities to pay water charges, thus compromising repairs in the event of breakdown.

In most regions, respondents, including men, report that responsibilities are increasingly shared between men and women within households in terms of chores, expenses and the distribution of food within the household. In addition, some found the cost of water to be high, particularly in Bamako and Kayes (Mahina locality) for low to moderate income households.

The establishment of mechanisms for the payment of drinking water charges at the community level for the maintenance of water points and/or the poor functionality of such mechanisms are challenges to be met, particularly in rural areas without access to infrastructure such as taps. The high cost of water is also more prevalent in urban areas. Among the challenges, hygiene issues (use of adequate latrines and hand washing during critical moments) are the priorities. However, given that women's participation in household tasks, expenditures and food distribution is still partial, sensitisation and other IEC activities should be done at the local/community level to further promote gender and inclusion while prioritising children and the elderly especially in food distribution.

## 5. STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OF THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE BASELINE

### 5.1. Identification and analysis of current policies, texts, commitments and decisions at national, regional and local levels related to nutrition, WASH

#### 5.1.1. Presentation of policies and strategies related to food security and nutrition

In Mali, the legislative and programmatic framework is well developed to deal with the problem of nutrition. From the point of view of the laws, we should remember the Agricultural Orientation Law of Mali, the Water Code and the General Code of Territorial Collectivities. As far as policies and programmes are concerned, there is the reference framework, the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD). In this reference framework document for development (CREDD) in Mali, the following objectives have been integrated

- Overall objective 3.2. Promote a sustainable, modern and competitive agricultural sector SO 3.2.1: Promote agricultural productivity and

competitiveness SO 3.2.2: Increase the contribution of livestock to growth and poverty reduction SO 3.2.3: Increase the contribution of fisheries to growth and reduction of food and nutrition insecurity SO 3.2.4: Ensure food and nutrition security

- Global objective 5.3. Ensure universal access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation services by 2030 SO 5.3.1: Sustainably meet the drinking water needs, in quantity and quality, of a growing population and a developing economy SO 5.3.2: Meet the real sanitation needs of the population in quantity and quality through their significant involvement, ensuring inter and intra regional equity SO 5.3.3: Improve governance of the water and sanitation<sup>4</sup> sector

In addition to this CREDD are: the National Food Security and Nutrition Policy, the National Nutrition Policy, the National Gender Policy of Mali, the Agricultural Development Policy of Mali, the National Sanitation Policy, the National Water Policy, the National Social Protection Policy, the Socio-Health Development Programme, the WASH in Health Strategic Plan, the Minimum WASH Package in Health Centres, the Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2021-2025 with its synergistic and complementary axes:

- *Axis 1: Sustainable and resilient food systems for healthy diets;*
- *Axis 2: Harmonised health systems ensuring universal coverage of essential nutritional measures*
- *Axis 3: Harmonised Social Protection and Education Systems providing essential nutritional measures*
- *Axis 4: Trade and investment for better nutrition ;*
- *Focus Area 5: Safe and supportive environment for nutrition for all ages or Water, Hygiene, Sanitation (WASH) Nutrition)*
- *Axis 6: Strengthened governance and accountability in the field of nutrition*

### **5.1.2. Institutional framework for nutrition**

In order to create an organisational framework that ensures the impetus and convergence of efforts for a real and sustainable development of nutrition, a National Nutrition Council (NNC) will be created and placed under the presidency of the Minister in charge of Health. The CNN is responsible for planning and coordinating the

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<sup>4</sup> CREDD

National Nutrition Policy. It will be responsible for (I) approve the intersectoral strategic plan for nutrition. (II) to ensure that nutrition is taken into account in all national strategies; (III) to monitor intersectoral implementation through annual reviews; (IV) to encourage each actor to carry out the actions specific to it; (V) to advocate for a national mobilisation in favour of nutrition.

### 5.1.3. Analysis of current policies and strategies related to food security, nutrition and WASH

From a policy perspective, from government to local decision-makers, the multi-sectoral approach is being adopted as a means of improving nutrition. In this sense, policies are increasingly tending towards a convergence of nutrition, food security and WASH sector strategies. To obtain sustainable and significant results in reducing the prevalence of chronic malnutrition and also acute malnutrition, at the local level, the piloting of multisectoral interventions must be done with a strong involvement of local authorities and coordination by the multisectoral platforms. The year 2019 was marked by Mali's decision to implement the entirety of the recommendations of the resolutions of the last General Health Assembly in May 2019 on WASH in health centres; this will force the two groups of WASH and nutrition actors to work more together.

National water and sanitation policies are being revised, as is the water code, to align them with the SDGs. These are draft water codes and sector policies, which advocate for institutional reform measures to clearly redistribute roles and responsibilities, while refocusing intervention strategies in the sector on strategic approaches based on the human rights to water and sanitation. The draft water code and policies are awaiting adoption by the Government, along with their eight policy frameworks, three for water, four for sanitation and one common programme for the governance of the whole sector. These are (i) The National Drinking Water Access Programme; (ii) The National Integrated Water Resources Management Programme; (iii) The National Water Development Programme; (iv) The National Sustainable Wastewater and Excreta Management Programme; (v) National Programme for Sustainable Management of Solid Waste; (vi) National Programme for Sustainable Management of Stormwater; (vii) National Programme for Sustainable Management of Special Waste; (viii) National Programme for Governance of the Water and Sanitation Sector. To date, the National Integrated Water Resources Management Programme and the National Water Development Programme are available. Also, the recruitment of consultants for the elaboration of the 6 other programmes is in progress.

Policies	Acronym	Type of document	Sectors	Year
National Nutrition Policy		Multisectoral Policy	Nutrition	2013

Policies	Acronym	Type of document	Sectors	Year
Multi-sectoral nutrition action plan	PAMN	multi-sectoral programme		2021
National Food and Nutrition Security Policy	PoINSAN	Multi-sectoral policy	Nutrition	2017
National Food Security Strategy in Mali		Sectoral policy	Nutrition	2003
Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development	CREDD	Strategic framework	Economic/Social	2019
National Gender Policy of Mali	PNG-Mali	Sectoral policy	Other	2009
Socio-sanitary development programme	PROSDESS II	Programme	Health	2005
Ten-year health and social development plan	PDDSS	Plan	Health	2014
Mali's agricultural development policy	PDA	Sectoral policy	Agriculture	2013
Agricultural land policy in Mali		Sectoral policy	Agriculture	2014
National Climate Change Policy		Sectoral policy	Environment	2011
Mali's Agricultural Orientation Law			Agriculture	2017
National Sanitation Policy	NAP	Sectoral policy	WASH	2020
National Water Policy	PNE	Sectoral policy	WASH	2019
National Social Protection Policy		Sectoral policy	Cross-sectional	2015
WASH in Health Strategic Plan		Multisectoral	Health	2018
National WASH and Nutrition Strategy		Multisectoral	WASH and Nutrition	2019

Table 10 Summary of nutrition and WASH policies and strategies

#### 5.1.4. Institutional framework for WASH and nutrition policies

The institutional framework of the WASH domain is organised as follows

- A Ministry of Energy and Water with, among other things, a National Directorate of Hydraulics.
- A Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development with, among others, the National Directorate of Sanitation, Pollution and Nuisance Control;
- A Ministry of Health and Social Affairs covering the Directorate General of Health and Public Hygiene and a sub-directorate for nutrition;
- A Sector Planning and Statistics Unit (SPC-SEEUDE) has been established;
- A Malian Water Management Company (SOMAGEP);
- An Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (CREE) for the urban environment to ensure compliance with the implementation of concession and leasing contracts;
- The decentralised authorities (Communes) are in charge of the public drinking water and sanitation service;
- a general agency responsible for wastewater treatment and sludge disposal (ANGESEM);

Sector coordination is led by CPS-SEEUDE (Cellule de Planification et de statistique-eau, environnement, urbanisme et domaines de l'Etat) through, among other things, sector reviews and consultation frameworks, the conduct of the TrackFin process and the production of the GLAAS country report. Since 2018, the CPS SEEUDE is also at the centre of the implementation of the SWA initiative in Mali. The lack of a results-oriented logical framework and the near absence of indicators for monitoring national policies have complicated the production and use of consensus data from the sector. The actors also recognise the urgency of finding useful means for this readability of funding by putting in place the necessary tools for the analysis and continuation of the TrackFin process with a contribution of the state's own funds and a strengthening of the provision of data from NGOs, civil society and the private sector. Several weaknesses have been addressed:

Lack of arbitration between the priorities of the different uses; - Non-application of the provisions of the Water Code; - Absence of regulatory provisions relating to water policing; - Non-functionality of the Executive Secretariat of the Water Development Fund; - Weak synergy between stakeholders and diversity of approaches; - Timidity of the process of transferring competences from the State to the Territorial Communities; - Poor management (financial, technical, organisational) of water infrastructures - Insufficient water code in relation to IWRM - Low level of collaboration and consultation between stakeholders in the water sector.

The weak capacity of local authorities to mobilise resources and manage projects - the weak anchoring of local policies - the lack of knowledge of regulatory texts - the insufficient consideration of local methods and the power of traditional local actors in

the management of water resources. - the non-existence of certain application texts of the water code.

In relation to the central role of local actors :

the low capacity of the population to pay for water at a fair price; - the lack of knowledge of the texts; the contestation of the pricing system (drinking water and water for agricultural use) by the stakeholders; - the inadequacy between the costs of producing water and the tariffs charged.

In relation to the development of an accessible public service:

The weak capacity of the maintenance mechanisms of the water and sanitation infrastructures; - The weakness in human, material and financial resources of the technical services in charge of the water and sanitation sector - Insufficient attention to sanitation issues by the actors of the WATSAN sector - Low participation of the private sector - Conflicts of competences between the structures - Absence of monitoring and evaluation of the legislative and regulatory texts

The poor perception of the privatisation of the public water service by the stakeholders - absence of a communal water service; - transfer of competences without transfer of financial resources.

In relation to the preservation of the resource :

Civil society actors are still timidly involved in the management of knowledge on the quality and quantity of water resources - the lack of national standards for drinking water and various discharges - the non-definition of certain principles in the water code, particularly that of the "user-pays" principle; - incomplete and sometimes incompatible databases - the cost of activities - local cultural habits

In relation to the governance of the sector :

Poorly functioning or non-functional consultation frameworks - Incomplete pricing models - Weak consideration of equity in water resource management

The state of the sector shows the existence of a multitude of actors in the water and sanitation sector as well as the existence of various regulatory frameworks and legal instruments whose application is not always ensured. The importance of water and the diversity of its uses amply justify the interest of development agents in interventions in this sector. The traditional challenges inherent in coordinating such a large set of actors in the implementation of integrated water resources management cannot be underestimated. Indeed, these challenges become particularly acute with the number of institutions involved and the diversity of organisational profiles, thematic

approaches and implementation tools. However, the successful implementation of the national water policy in Mali depends, in the long term, on taking these challenges into account and identifying actions/activities and strategies to create better synergy between water and sanitation stakeholders.

**The institutional framework of nutrition is based on the National Nutrition Council (CNN).** It was created in order to provide the field with an organisational framework that ensures the impetus and convergence of efforts for a real and sustainable development of nutrition, a National Nutrition Council. The CNN meets once a year to assess the implementation of the national nutrition policy. The composition of the CNN is representative of all the ministries involved in the field of nutrition at the highest level, the Food Security Commission, local authorities, representatives of civil society and the private sector. The CNN, through its Intersectoral Technical Committee on Nutrition, ensures the coherence and monitoring of the implementation of the intersectoral action plan and the annual operational plans. It guarantees the conditions for a broad, effective and organised partnership in line with the requirements of the effective improvement of the nutritional situation at all levels. The NSC strengthens the conditions for community funding of issues related to improving the nutritional status of their population.

Funding for the operationalisation of the national policy document comes from the state budget, the participation of communities, NGOs and development partners.

The NCC is supported by an Intersectoral Technical Committee on Nutrition (ITCN) chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Health. It will be responsible for (i) promote the coordination and harmonisation of the various annual sectoral plans and ensure the complementarity of the means implemented; (ii) draw up the intersectoral strategic plan for nutrition; (iii) monitor the implementation of the sectoral action plans; (iv) playing the role of nutrition observatory through the publication of the evolution of indicators; preparing the various meetings of the CNN; (v) giving a technical opinion on any document requiring the approval of the CNN; (vi) preparing a six-monthly report on the implementation of the national nutrition development policy.

The composition of the CTIN is representative of all government ministerial departments, technical and financial partners, civil society organisations and the private sector at central level. It meets once every six months.

At the national level, the National Nutrition Council (NNC) is created and responsible for the planning and coordination of the National Nutrition Policy. The NNC is supported by the Intersectoral Technical Committee on Nutrition (ITCN), whose role includes promoting the coordination and harmonisation of the various sectoral plans. The coordination of the NNC and the CTIN is ensured by the Nutrition Coordination

Unit (CCN), whose mission is to ensure the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Multisectoral Action Plan for Nutrition 2021-2025.

At the decentralised level, in accordance with **Decree No. 08 - 095 PRM of 21 February 2008**, the activities of the NCC, CTIN and CCN will be carried out by the Regional, Local and Communal Committees for the Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions (CROCSAD, CLOCSAD and CCOCSAD).

iii. Implementing Agencies (IAs) are the implementing bodies for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive policies. They include representatives of sectoral ministries and their relevant departments, national programmes and projects, national institutions, civil society, the private sector and national or international NGOs. Multilateral and bilateral cooperation agencies that provide financial and technical support to these programmes will also be represented.

The AMIOs design, programme, manage, implement and monitor and evaluate the activities entrusted to them in accordance with the general guidelines established by the NCC and the specific recommendations of the NITC, respectively.

In order to ensure the efficiency of the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy at the grassroots level, there will be coordination and monitoring of AMIO interventions from the central level, through the regional level to the community level.

At the decentralised level (regions, cercles and communes), the activities of the NCC and the NITC will be carried out by existing technical and decentralised structures. The Regional Committees for Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions (CROCSAD), the Local Committees for Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions (CLOCSAD), the Communal Committees for Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions (CCOCSAD), will therefore have to play their roles to the full in order to better implement the National Nutrition Policy throughout the country.

From this point of view, it is desirable that the Right2Grow programme contributes to the strengthening of these steering committees, which are also spaces for accountability.

Since joining the SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) Movement in 2011, Mali has given political impetus to these nutrition actions, notably with the creation of the Nutritional Coordination Unit (2015). This unit fills an important gap, that of the multisectoral coordination of nutrition actors and interventions. Placed under the authority of the Prime Minister, it works to keep the networks of civil society, universities and research, donors and the private sector operational. It has worked with the parliamentary network for the inclusion of the right to food and nutrition in the constitution.

However, some difficulties remain:

- The difficulties of synergies of actions: networks of SUN as a movement with those of a certain number of actors such as the umbrella organisations of civil society, the private sector, technical and financial partners, the networks of groupings set up by the United Nations agencies, etc;
- The strengthening of the nutrition coordination unit with the "one size fits all" approach: a single leadership (that of the government), a single planning framework (MAPN 2021-2025) and a single monitoring mechanism (the CTIN for monitoring the programmatic and financial performance of the multisectoral approach to nutrition). At this level, a plea can be made to provide the unit with a programme budget enabling it to be autonomous and to meet its operational monitoring objectives.

In addition, a review of key policies provides the following information:

#### **National Nutrition Policy (NNP) 2010-2021:**

The strengths of the policy are

- The vision: "To ensure the right to adequate nutrition for the entire Malian population in order to satisfy their well-being and guarantee sustainable national development".
- The general objective: "to contribute to ensuring that every Malian has a satisfactory nutritional status for their well-being and for national development". This objective allows for the intervention of all specific and sensitive nutrition actors such as WASH, which is a focus of the 2021-2025 MAP: **Focus 5: Safe and supportive environment for nutrition for all ages or Water, Hygiene, Sanitation (WASH) Nutrition**.
- The aim of this axis is to maximise the impact of projects/programmes to combat malnutrition through WASH interventions such as the R2G programme
- The results framework and the definition of the roles of stakeholders at all levels are also strong points of this national nutrition policy

One of the weaknesses is the lack of accountability and governance framework especially at the deconcentrated and decentralised level

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#### **National Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition (NSFP) 2005-2009**

- A strength of the plan is that it recognises the importance of involving other sectors in efforts to eradicate malnutrition and promotes inter- and intra-sectoral working and multi-sectoral coordination.

- A weakness of the plan is that it does not mention food security interventions, despite their important role in improving the nutritional status of the Malian people.

### **2015 National Food Security Strategy in Mali (SNSA) 2002-2015**

- A strength of the policy is that it recognises that women's nutrition is a very important issue given the fundamental role they play in all parts of the agri-food chain;
- In addition, the strategy recognises the links between women's schooling, improved health coverage, reproductive health and food security;
- A weakness is that it does not mention the hygiene of the food consumed by the population.

### **National Food Security and Nutritional Policy of Mali (PoINSAN) 2017-2025**

#### Highlights:

- Existence of nutrition indicators in several policy axes, in addition to an axis totally dedicated to nutrition (axis 3)
- Priority given to vulnerable groups (children, pregnant women, elderly, sick) in the policy with dedicated interventions.
- in the plan, with key categories not mentioned.
- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- The Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security (Zero Hunger) ;
- National WASH Nutrition Strategy

A weakness is the limited consideration of key nutrition actions

Nutrition is divided between the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

## **5.2. Factors that hinder as well as facilitate the adoption of infant and young child feeding practices and the feeding of pregnant and lactating women in households**

### **5.2.1. Adverse factors**

The results show that the factors hindering the adoption of good feeding practices are a lack of knowledge about food and its nutritional value, a poorly diversified diet, and difficulties in accessing information and health centres. They also tell us that mothers are concerned about their child's health, they go for NCDs (even if few come for 3/4 consultations), they know some signs of malnutrition and early breastfeeding.

According to a Unicef study in 2019, it appears that barriers/barriers in knowledge about community-based ECY and holistic child development. Based on the responses provided by the focus group participants, the obstacles are essentially of four types:

- The problem of availability: poor planning of GSAN awareness-raising activities affects the participation of target populations. It emerged from the discussions that women are often obliged to interrupt their work to take part in awareness-raising activities. For men, they are sometimes very busy meeting other household needs.
- Poverty: The application of nutrition practices requires financial means to buy millet flour, milk and sugar. In view of this, and given their level of poverty, people are not overly motivated to participate in ANSG activities. Discounted sensitisation: It is customary for GSANs not to have the ingredients for nutritional demonstrations. It is therefore the households that contribute, otherwise the activity may be cancelled or simply provided on the cheap, with the means at hand. It should be noted, however, that the contribution of households to provide nutrition demonstrations is in line with the objective of the ANSGs. The message must therefore be clearly communicated so that the population can take ownership of the activity and enable the ANSG to provide effective awareness-raising.
- Functioning of the GSAN: the GSAN facilitators are unpaid volunteers. Some of them have problems travelling to the awareness-raising sites. A combination of these two factors has a negative effect on their level of motivation.
- Other specific barriers were also mentioned. These include the fact that women need their husbands' permission to participate in awareness-raising sessions. For women, access to foodstuffs such as millet, milk and sugar remains a problem, aggravated by low income levels. The development of IGAs for women and the involvement of men in health and child development issues are solutions to be considered.
- The level of impoverishment means that households, or more precisely women, are unable to obtain the necessary food (millet, milk, sugar) for the preparation of the porridge
- Lack of awareness of the nutritional value of certain local foods and their importance for children's health and development
- The low level of implementation of nutritional advice by some mothers.

### 5.2.2. Enabling factors

The sustainability of the GSAN action depends on the motivation of the GSAN animators, on the one hand through the improvement of their working conditions (availability of inputs for cooking demonstrations for example), and on the other hand

through a good planning and facilitation of their field missions (means of travel). With regard to the availability of inputs for nutritional demonstrations, it would be necessary to consider or strengthen the strategic partnership with the agriculture, livestock and fisheries departments in order to promote collective and individual market gardens, domestic livestock and fish farming. This will not only lead to better diversification of foods for nutritional demonstrations, but would also be a source of motivation for ANSG members.

During the interviews, the ANSGs asked for technical capacity building to better cope with their workloads, but also for better recognition by the local authorities.

### **5.2.3. Communities' knowledge of their social rights in relation to nutrition and WASH**

Studies have shown that communities do not have a high level of knowledge of their social rights in relation to nutrition and washing. They also find it difficult to take initiatives for change due to their lack of knowledge of what to do and their very low level of education.

Through focus groups with men and women from the surveyed areas, community leaders, malnourished mother-child pairs, water point management committees, and town halls, we can identify the following trends:

- People know very little about their rights to nutrition and wash ;
- The population has very little information on good practices in terms of nutrition, water and hygiene;
- People know very little about their duties in the field of nutrition and Wash does not therefore carry out any citizen monitoring in this area;
- The ANSGs and the relays who have to organise sensitisations face a lot of motivation problems due to the lack of work resources and monetary motivation.

The results of the Baseline of the project for the integrated fight against chronic malnutrition in the regions of Kayes and Sikasso, Mali, financed by Global Affaire Canada, confirm these findings. Indeed, the specific nutritional needs of FEFA and children under 5 years of age remain unknown in the four health districts (about 16%) and only less than 30% of people know 3/5 key moments of hand washing with soap and water.

The solutions proposed by the respondents are as follows: increase community awareness, strengthen the capacity of the committees (partnership/budgetary advocacy and organisation), of the GSANs and maries for better support of the populations.

### 5.3. Capitalise on and analyse existing data on the knowledge, attitudes and current practices of multisectoral nutrition-related communities

#### **Early breastfeeding after birth :**

Most mother-child pairs responded immediately after birth. In Kayes and Sikasso, they responded one to one hour after birth. But all of them confided that they were encouraged by the midwives/matrons to start breastfeeding as soon as possible. According to a mother in Sikasso - Bobola Zangasso "I started breastfeeding my child one hour after delivery".

#### **Exclusive breastfeeding before 6 months of age**

In all regions (Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso), the majority of respondents (traditional therapists, community leaders, male and female respondents, mothers of malnourished children) say that exclusive breastfeeding is a "good thing" in view of its importance and its contribution to the positive development of children in terms of nutrition and health. Thanks to awareness-raising by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and health workers, communities are increasingly beginning to adopt the practice.

In addition, the majority of mothers of malnourished children in the four regions report having given their child breast milk from birth and say that they breastfed exclusively for six months. In general, after six (6) months, the majority of mothers said they had introduced other foods such as porridge, potatoes, fish, etc. into their babies' diet. However, some mothers associated breast milk with foods that were inappropriate for their babies' diets as follows: "As a supplemental food, I gave rice to my baby at the age of 4 months" (Source, ST, mother of child screened as malnourished, Koulikoro).

#### **Introduction of solid, semi-solid and soft foods:**

Half of the mothers interviewed said that they only gave their child breast milk. The others often gave other things such as traditional herbal teas or other traditional drinks, porridge, water etc.

According to a mother from Bamako - Taliko "Yes, I have introduced foods such as orange, lipton tea, porridge and potato in my child's diet".

#### **Minimum food diversity :**

In most localities, food unavailability and food access are cited as the main obstacles to food diversification, especially during periods of low agricultural/market gardening production. Thus, households with low to low-middle incomes find it difficult to diversify food during this period or to obtain rich foods with high nutritional value (milk,

meat, fruit, eggs). It should be remembered that markets are in short supply while food prices are rising at the same time. The cultivation and consumption of local (drought-resistant) species rich in macro- and micronutrients (beans, moringa, baobab leaves, etc.) should be promoted. The conditions should be created so that foodstuffs are abundant in the markets, thus maintaining stable and affordable prices at the community level.

Mali has a national WASH in Nutrition strategy adopted in 2019 under the leadership of the Nutrition Coordination Unit with support from Action Contre la Faim, Unicef and WaterAid. In addition, the new multisectoral nutrition action plan contains an entire focus on WASH in nutrition.

#### 5.4. Levels of knowledge and skills that people have to claim their rights and the services that can enforce them

- CBO members know very little about their rights and duties in relation to policy monitoring and advocacy;
- The members of the CBOs have enormous difficulties in carrying out their work: refusal of certain services to provide information, denigration of members, low capacity/unawareness/lack of means, lack of awareness, poor coordination between actors and, above all, political recuperation of actions by certain members. They have a lot of problems with motivation, both because of the lack of knowledge of citizen watch by the actors, and because of the lack of means (material and financial) to ensure the activities;

The solutions identified through discussions with CBOs, technical services and communities are as follows:

- Create a multi-sectoral (local, regional and national) consultation framework based on existing accountability frameworks that have been assessed;
- Develop a legal text on citizen monitoring and propose it to parliamentarians;
- Organise training at all levels: communities, technical services, civil society associations, CBOs, on the importance of good governance and the usefulness of accountability;
- Establish quotas (associations, youth, women, older people, disabled people) in the setting up of citizen watch CBOs in order to ensure that the entire population is represented. Some members approached suggested that the elderly and community leaders should be resource persons (advisors) and not active members;
- Organise a motivation system with two types of motivation (monetary/activity and non-monetary). The non-monetary incentive can be working tools such as badges, bags, phones, video equipment, tea equipment and tea. The committees especially need a dedicated space for their meeting, i.e. a shed to be set up at the chosen meeting place;

- Finally, create collection tools adapted to the level of understanding of the CBOs involved in the citizen watch; the collection can be monthly and the reporting quarterly. In addition to the collection tools (one for the communities and one for the technical services), the committees can be provided with a reporting template and an action plan model.

#### 5.5. Mechanisms and approaches used by a population to have its opinions and expectations heard and taken into account

The data collection shows that there are few mechanisms at local level. However, citizens are consulted in their neighbourhoods by local elected officials for the preparation of the annual municipal budget. They are also invited to take part in municipal council sessions as observers. In some communes, governance support projects have made it possible to set up citizen watch groups.

In Mali, it is led by the CNSC (National Council of Civil Society) and other organisations, the means of citizen control are through citizen participation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies and citizen audit of public funds. This is done through citizen monitoring and surveillance actions in the form of surveys and the production of alternative reports. It is carried out in the following ways:

- Citizen participation: to participate in the design, development and monitoring/evaluation of policies and programmes alongside government services;
- Surveys and information gathering: this involves organising monitoring and evaluation activities on the ground, at the level of institutions, services and communities, by collecting information on a consensual basis. In some cases, memoranda of understanding can be signed between civil society and the government or community to define the forms of monitoring;
- Processing and sharing of collected information: once the information has been collected, it will be analysed on the basis of objective indicators and shared with CSOs and the population through appropriate channels;
- Influencing decision-makers through lobbying, advocacy and pressure groups at all levels;

The desk study showed that the SWA MRM, for which Mali is designated as a Pioneer Country for its implementation, has enabled :

- Participatory development and implementation of an action plan for the mechanism since December 2018; this facilitates participatory analysis of the sector's progress and constraints;
- Strengthening Collaborative Behaviours to enable a permanent multi-stakeholder dialogue between sector ministries, the Ministry of Finance and other categories of actors;

- The establishment of a SWA committee during the restitution of the launch of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism. It is composed of the General Directorate of the Budget, the National Directorate of Planning, the Research and Learning Institutes (ENI-ABT), Unicef Mali, WaterAid Mali, WHO, Enabel, the SWA Focal Point of civil society, the Territorial Collectivities, the private sector (UDUMA Mali), the Journalists' Network on WASH, CPS/SEEUDE (coordination and GLAAS Focal Point, TRACKFIN);
- The committee under the leadership of the Government led the development of Mali's SWA commitments, through a national multi-stakeholder process aligned with the country's priorities;
- The use of the SWA Framework based on the Guiding Principles, Core Features, Collaborative Behaviours and the Mutual Accountability Mechanism has been instrumental in moving the needle in Mali:
  - Analysis meetings on TrackFin results and GLAAS country data;
  - Regular monitoring of the sector's financial flows through TrackFin, which is in its third phase and whose final report will be published in March 2020;
  - Commitments by all categories of actors aligned with the country's priorities and linked to the achievement of SDG 6;
  - Increase of the national budget to the WASH sector: from 1.23% in 2017 to 2.62% in 2018.
- Stronger leadership and collaboration between different ministries: integrating the SWA framework into sector planning and evaluation;
- Capacity building of stakeholders through SWA webinars which are 100% attended in Mali and in the presence of all categories of stakeholders.

In the field of nutrition, in the framework of the SUN, the company succeeded in synergising its actions with the NCC in getting the government to make commitments in the framework of the international forum Nutrition for Growth, Tokyo 2021. These commitments were officially presented and registered at the international level.

#### 5.6. Mapping the budget process at national and local level (calendar of activities and budgeting events)

Public budgets (government, local authorities) follow the same principle as family budgets but their planning and implementation process is more complex.

Public budgets are *"the instruments through which governments or local councils allocate the financial resources of the country. They are usually drawn up at regular (annual) intervals to cover a fixed period of time often called a fiscal year"*.

Budgeting is a political process that reflects what the current Government or Communal Council considers to be its political priorities.

### 5.6.1. THE BUDGET TIMETABLE

The preparation of the budget takes just under nine months. From the beginning of the year N-1 until the second half of September, when the draft is adopted by the Council of Ministers.

January - May: Budget strategy

January-March: macroeconomic and budgetary framework

April: Define three-year cross-sectoral allocations

May: Communicate budget envelopes: scoping letter

June: preparation of preliminary draft budgets by sectoral ministries;

July-August: budget conferences

September: examination by the Council of Ministers.

October: submission to the National Assembly

### 5.6.2. The budgetary authorities :

- **The Prime Minister :**

It is under the authority of the Prime Minister, who is responsible for the coherence of government action and who intervenes to set the government's priorities.

Indeed, the budget is increasingly prepared according to the 'top-down' approach, the starting point of which is the definition by the Prime Minister of a public finance strategy expressed to each of the ministers in the framework letter he sends them.

The Prime Minister is the ultimate arbiter of budget negotiations between the managing ministers and the minister in charge of finance.

- **The Minister of Finance :**

The Minister of Finance leads the budget negotiations with the other state administrations.

As the only minister with a global vision of public finance, he is responsible for the synthesis of the finance bill: it consists of making the initial demands of the ministries compatible with the overall level of expenditure.

He is the sole architect of the revenue forecast.

He/she is responsible for the smooth preparation of the budget and the respect of the timetable.

- **The managing ministers :**

Once the amount of the budget envelopes has been devolved, the managing ministers become "their own finance minister": intra-sectoral distribution.

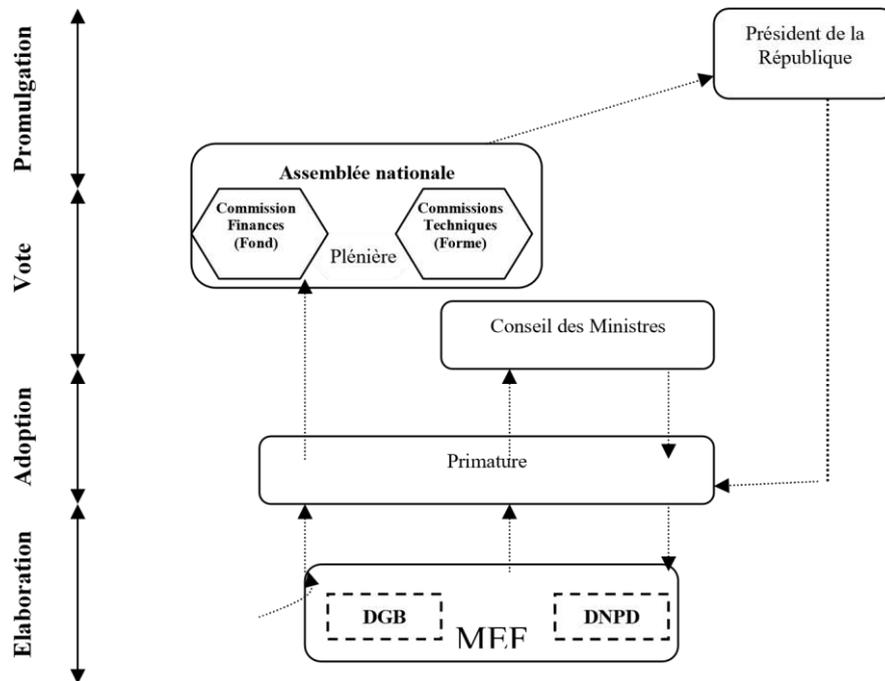


Figure 3 State budget forecasting scheme

### 5.6.3. THE BUDGET PREPARATION PHASE

Budget preparation activities include :

- macroeconomic and budgetary framing activities ;
- the examination of the budget guidelines by the Council of Ministers
- the notification of expenditure ceilings by ministry by the Minister of Finance (the sending of the budgetary framework letter);
- the preparation of budget requests by sectoral ministries;
- the examination of these requests by the Ministry of Finance: budgetary arbitration
- the finalisation of the budget after arbitration, and its adoption by the Council of Ministers;
- The tabling of the budget in Parliament.
- These budget preparation activities can be broken down into three main phases:
- a phase of determining a coherent budgetary strategy within a multi-annual framework;
- a phase of defining budgetary discipline and perspective through dialogue;
- a phase of conflict resolution through political arbitration.

The phase of determining a coherent budgetary strategy within a multi-annual framework

This phase is essential, as it consists of deciding on the general framework within which the reflections and proposals relating to the Finance Bill should be placed.

This is the framing phase during which the overall budgetary targets (total revenue and expenditure, deficit, etc.) and the cross-sectoral allocation of resources, including spending ceilings by ministry, are determined.

There are five (5) steps to this scoping phase:

- . Develop the medium-term macroeconomic and fiscal framework
- . Define the three-year cross-sectoral allocations
- . "Organising the budgetary orientation debate
- . Communicating the medium-term budget framework envelopes: the budget preparation circular letter
- . Prepare draft budgets by spending ministries.

The phase of defining budgetary discipline through dialogue: budget conferences

Budget conferences between:

- . the departments of the ministries and the Budget Directorate;
- . spending ministries and the Minister of Finance.

This is a technical examination of the requests for credits made by the ministries: technical arbitration.

The phase of conflict resolution through political arbitration

It takes place mainly before the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, where the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic are asked to give their approval.

#### 6.7.2. Adoption of the budget by parliament

Budget adoption procedures

The timetable for the budget discussion

The finance bill: the only text for which the constitution and finance bills explicitly provide for a deadline for adoption.

Article 47 of Law No. 96-060 on the Finance Law regulates the date of submission and the time limit for discussion of the Finance Law.

"The draft budget is deposited on the desk of the National Assembly at the opening of the session preceding the budget period.

The timetable for the budget discussion

If the Assembly has not taken a decision before the opening of the budget period, the Government shall refer the draft budget within fifteen days to the National Assembly convened for this purpose in extraordinary session.

In the event that the budget is not voted before the beginning of the financial year, the government is entitled to make appropriations by provisional twelfths, based on the operating expenditure of the previous year.

The voting procedures for the year's finance law

Revenue estimates are voted on as a whole for the general budget and by annex budget or by category of special accounts.

General budget expenditure is subject to a single vote for A-Base and a vote by chapter and department for new authorisations.

Parliament's power of adoption

Framing the discussion in parliament

- . provisional twelfths (Article 47 of the Finance Act) to ensure the continuity of the State budget when it is not voted before 31 December.
- . the limited right of parliamentary amendment.

Framing the discussion in parliament :

- . Amendments that result in an increase in expenditure are prohibited.
- . Amendments which would result in a reduction in the revenue of the budget are prohibited.

Framing the discussion in parliament

These rules are intended to secure the Government's budget proposal and thus enable it to have the means to implement its policy.

However, they should not unduly reduce the role of Parliament and make the budget debate meaningless.

## BUDGETARY EXECUTION

Budget Implementers

Credit administrators

Credit administrators are those responsible for the structures identified in the budget. The appropriateness of the expenditure recorded at the level of their structure is up to them.

The credit administrators express their and it is the Delegated Secondary Authorising Officer (DAF) who is the only one entitled to make budgetary commitments.

E.g.: Directors of central or attached services

### The authorising officers

A public authorising officer is any person who is empowered on behalf of public bodies to prescribe the execution of their revenue and expenditure.

To this end, it establishes entitlements, settles revenue, issues debt certificates, and commits, settles and orders expenditure.

### The Financial Controller

The Financial Controller exercises permanent a priori financial control.

Its raison d'être is to ensure that the execution of the budget complies with the financial regulations and the budgetary authorisation given by the National Assembly.

He is the representative of the Minister of Finance to the secondary authorising officers.

### Accounting officers

A public accountant is any civil servant or agent of the State who is authorised to carry out revenue, expenditure or handling of securities on behalf of public bodies.

### Stages of Finance Law Implementation

The process of executing the state budget has two main phases:

The administrative phase which consists of three stages:

Commitment: This is an act that creates or recognises a debt to the State.

For example: the recruitment of a staff member; a contract for the supply of goods or services, the execution of works, etc.

Liquidation: In the broadest sense, the purpose of liquidation is to recognise the existence of public debts (services rendered, delivery of supplies, execution of works, etc.) and their amount.

Strictly speaking, it concerns the confirmation of the assessment of the expenditure (fixing the amount of the debts to be paid).

In practice, this is done at the same time as the scheduling phase.

Authorisation: This is the administrative act by which the authorising officer gives the accounting officer, in accordance with the results of the liquidation, the order to pay the debt of the public body.

The accounting phase: This consists of a single operation: payment.

The payment is the act that records the settlement of the expenditure and the extinction of the debt of the public body.

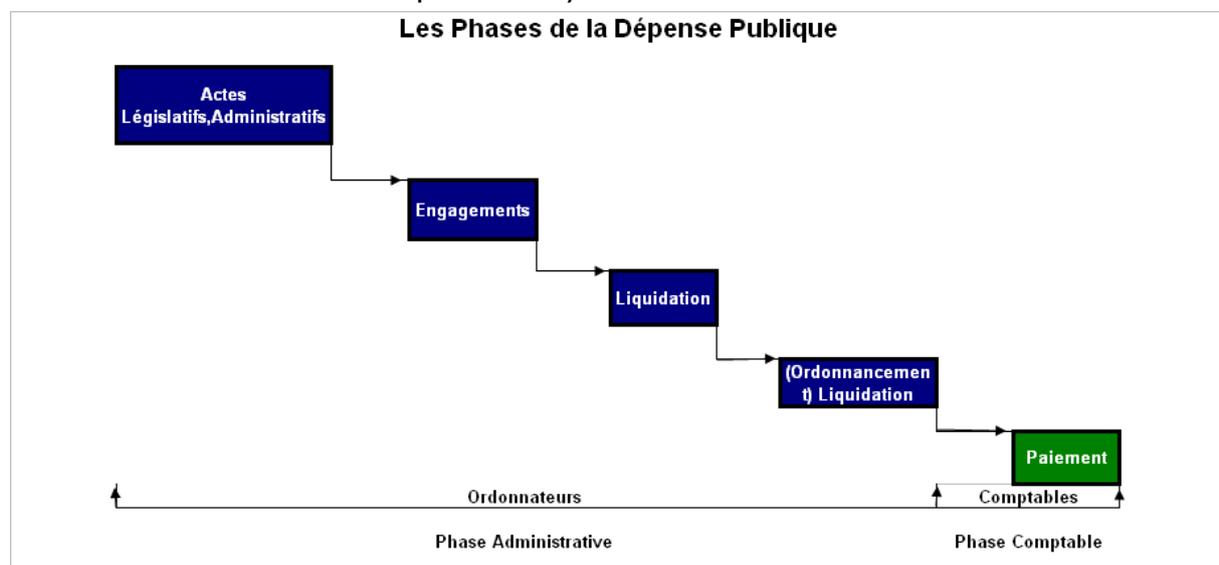


Figure 4 Phases of public expenditure

# Agents d'exécution et phase d'exécution du budget

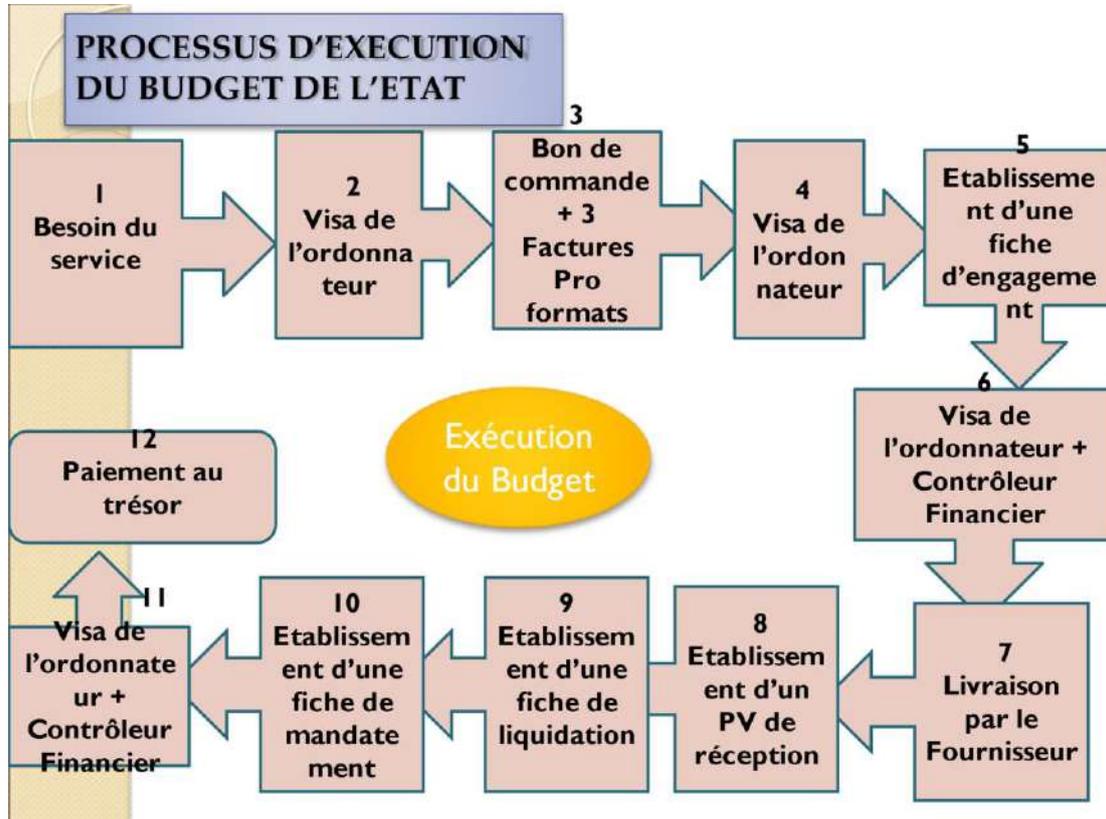
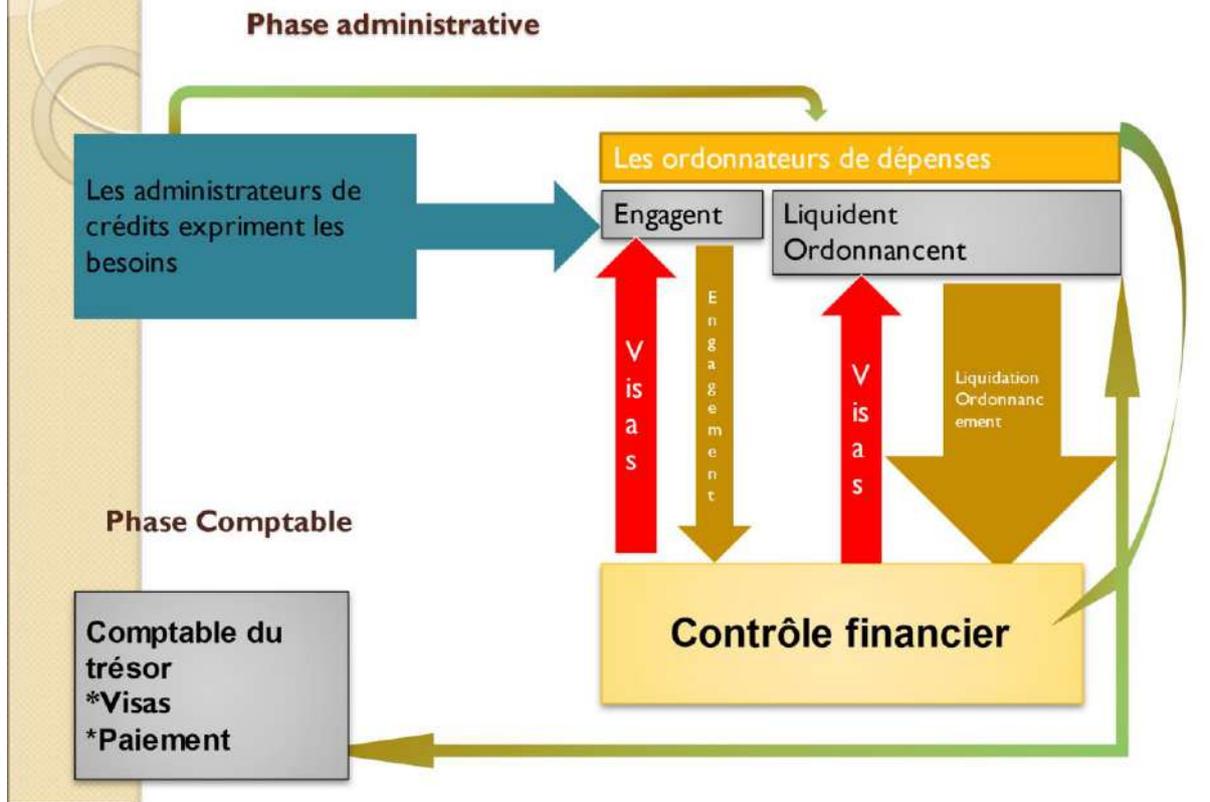


Figure 5 Implementers and Phases of budget execution

## Standards for the regulation of budget execution

Regulation is an important financial management tool because the government may have to adjust the pace of budgetary expenditure during the year for reasons that may be related to the cyclical adjustment of the economic situation or to the control of public expenditure

### a. The cash flow plan:

Its objective is to enable the timely and cost-effective financing of expenditure and to contribute to the smooth implementation of fiscal policies.

### b. Transfers and remittances

Transfers change the determination of the department responsible for the execution of the expenditure without changing the nature of the expenditure.

Transfers change the nature of the expenditure provided they are within the same chapter.

Appropriation orders

The appropriations authorised by parliament are usually notified to the spending departments on a quarterly basis:

- The operating appropriations are notified on a quarterly basis;
- The appropriations for staff are notified half-yearly;
- The appropriations for capital expenditure are made on demand.

### d. The freezing of funds

Freezes are a technique for regulating the consumption of credits, whereby some of them are put in reserve by the government.

## 5.6.4. BUDGET EXECUTION CONTROL

Among others, we have :

**Administrative controls:** These appear in the form:

- . financial control;
- . a control exercised by a control body: the Inspectorate of Finance, the General Control of Public Services, the Auditor General's Office;
- . parliamentary control

**The National Assembly:** It exercises :

- . concomitant control through :
- . Parliamentary committees of enquiry during the execution of the Finance Act;
- . the communication of periodic implementation situations ;
- . a posteriori control through the vote of the settlement law;
- . judicial review

This external and a posteriori control is carried out by the Audit Office of the Supreme Court through

- . Its report on the execution of the state budget ;
- . Its general statement of conformity between the management accounts and the administrative accounts.

**The Accounts Section:** It judges the accounts of the public accountants who verify the financial management of the administrative agents in charge of the execution of the State budget

It exercises any control at any time on its own initiative or at the request of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister or the President of the National Assembly.

#### 5.6.5. THE BUDGETARY PROCESS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES :

Mali has been engaged in a decentralisation process since 1996 which has resulted in the creation of 703 communes, 49 cercles, 8 regions and the district of Bamako. With the creation of new regions, the number of communes has increased to 754. All these communities are managed by elected officials. Decentralisation means a transfer of powers from the State to a legal entity under public law that is distinct from the State and has a greater or lesser degree of autonomy, depending on the degree of decentralisation, and its own budget, while remaining under the supervision of the State, which remains the supervisory authority. The actors involved in the municipal budgetary process, the transfer of competences and the transfer of resources will be discussed in this section respectively.

#### **Actors involved in the budget process**

While at the national level, the role of the government is predominant (especially the Ministry of Finance), at the local level, in addition to the mayor (and his or her technical services), all the local development actors are involved in the budgetary process, including associations, NGOs, economic interest groups, communities and other civil society organisations. All these actors participate in the budgetary process through workshops organised for this purpose by the commune.

By drawing a parallel between the drafting and adoption bodies, the actors involved in the budgetary process and their respective roles are clearer. The communal budget follows a similar process to the national budget. At the communal level, the mayor represents the ministry in charge of finance. In this sense, he or she is responsible for drawing up the primary budget, involving not only various actors upstream of the process but also the agents reporting to the mayor (secretary general and other accountants). The government, which is the executive at national level, plays the same role as the municipal office, which is made up of the mayor and his deputies, each of whom is responsible for a specific area within the municipal team. The communal budget is adopted by the communal council, which meets in session to do so. It can amend the draft proposed by the municipal office. The draft thus adopted is transmitted to the Prefect/Governor for approval in the same way as the President of the Republic proceeds to promulgate the finance law at national level. All communal budgets are approved by the Prefects with the exception of the communes of Bamako whose budgets are approved by the governor of the district of Bamako.

<b>Municipal budget</b>	<b>State budget</b>
Mayor	Ministry of Finance
Municipal office	Government
Local Council	National Assembly
Prefect/Governor	President of the Republic

Table 11 Budget preparation and adoption bodies at national and municipal levels

Of all the levels of decentralisation (commune, cercle and region), the communal level seems to best reflect the decentralisation of the budgetary process, a process that will be strengthened as local democracy and governance in Mali are consolidated. Better still, unlike the cercle council and the regional assembly (the other two levels of decentralisation), the commune has its own territory over which the authority of the communal council is exercised, with the power to create and collect taxes on the taxpayers of the territory.

At the current stage of knowledge on the budgetary process at the commune level, it is preferable to conduct an exploratory case study in order to better understand this process. This case study concerns two rural communes (one very populated and one much less so), one urban commune at the level of the regional capital, another at the level of the chief town of a circle and one that does not fall under any regional or circle capital, and one semi-urban commune in the sense of a commune declared rural but with at least one agglomeration of at least 5,000 inhabitants (the statistical definition of a town). To these six communes, one commune of the district of Bamako and the

district council must be added, making a total of eight decentralised entities at the communal level to be investigated. The choice was made for :

- Bamako District Council, commonly known as the Central City Hall;
- Commune I of the district of Bamako, one of the most populated communes;
- Urban commune of Ségou, the second most populated regional commune after Sikasso;
- Urban commune of Koutiala, the first and most populated commune of the cercle;
- Urban commune of Karan, in the circle of Kangaba, region of Koulikoro with a population of about 10,000 inhabitants;
- Semi-urban municipality of Markala, cercle and region of Ségou with a population of approximately 50,000 inhabitants;
- Rural commune of Cinzana, cercle and region of Ségou for more than 35,000 inhabitants;
- Rural commune of Kouniana, cercle de Koutiala, region of Sikasso with a population of less than 5,000 inhabitants.

The research at the level of these municipalities consisted of collecting all the most recent budgetary documents (draft budgets, budgets, revenue certificates and summary expenditure statements, administrative and management accounts, deliberations, approval decisions, audit reports, etc.). These are:

- make an inventory of the channels of communication with the public;
- to identify and summarise the texts relating to the budgetary process and the arrangements for informing the public.

The elements gathered during the phase of collecting, inventorying and reviewing budget documents made it possible to conceptualise the process of preparing, executing and controlling the communal budget. This conceptual note was discussed (along with the brief summaries of the budgetary processes prepared by GREAT following the fieldwork) and tested in a two-day workshop with a sample of elected municipal officials from the cercle council and the regional assembly of Ségou, the urban commune of Ségou, Markala, Cinzana, Koutiala, Kouniana, Karan, the mayor's office of the district of Bamako and the commune I of Bamako. The debates helped to clarify the outline of the communal budgetary process, which goes from the elaboration to the control of the budget by the supervisory authority. In addition, the discussions clarified the role and place of each actor in the process as described by GREAT.

### **Preparation of the municipal budget and timetable**

As with the national budget, the process of preparing, adopting and approving the budget at the communal level involves many actors at each stage (councillors, communal services, technical services of the state, etc.).

The municipalities all follow the same approach in the preparation of budget documents. Budgets follow the same rules contained in the inter-ministerial decree, with the same nomenclature. As the authorising officer, the mayor is solely responsible for drawing up the draft budget. In practice, he is assisted by his technical services, in particular by the secretary general who is supposed to be the technician of the structure. Nevertheless, differences remain in the creation and setting of tax rates.

The technical services of the communities do some work upstream. This involves the establishment of numerical rolls to determine the tax base (number of taxpayers, number of carts, number of guns, etc.). Also, the contributions of technical and financial partners are integrated at this level with regard to revenue. These technical services then carry out a census of economic activity points in the commune or district of Bamako and also receive revenue forecasts from the tax department, the estates department and other state tax departments.

After this stage of revenue forecasting, the commission, which includes the decentralised services of the state and the financial service of the town hall, counts all the workers of the community and calculates the various social charges related to them. In the case of urban communes and the district of Bamako, these entities receive the needs of the state services operating in their territory for support. Examples include police services, urban planning services, etc.

In the investment section, the annual instalment of the PDESC (Programme de développement économique, social et culturel) is retained for the benefit of the coming budget year. Also, the drawing rights of the ANICT1 (National Agency for Investment in Territorial Communities) constitute funds intended to finance infrastructure at the level of communities.

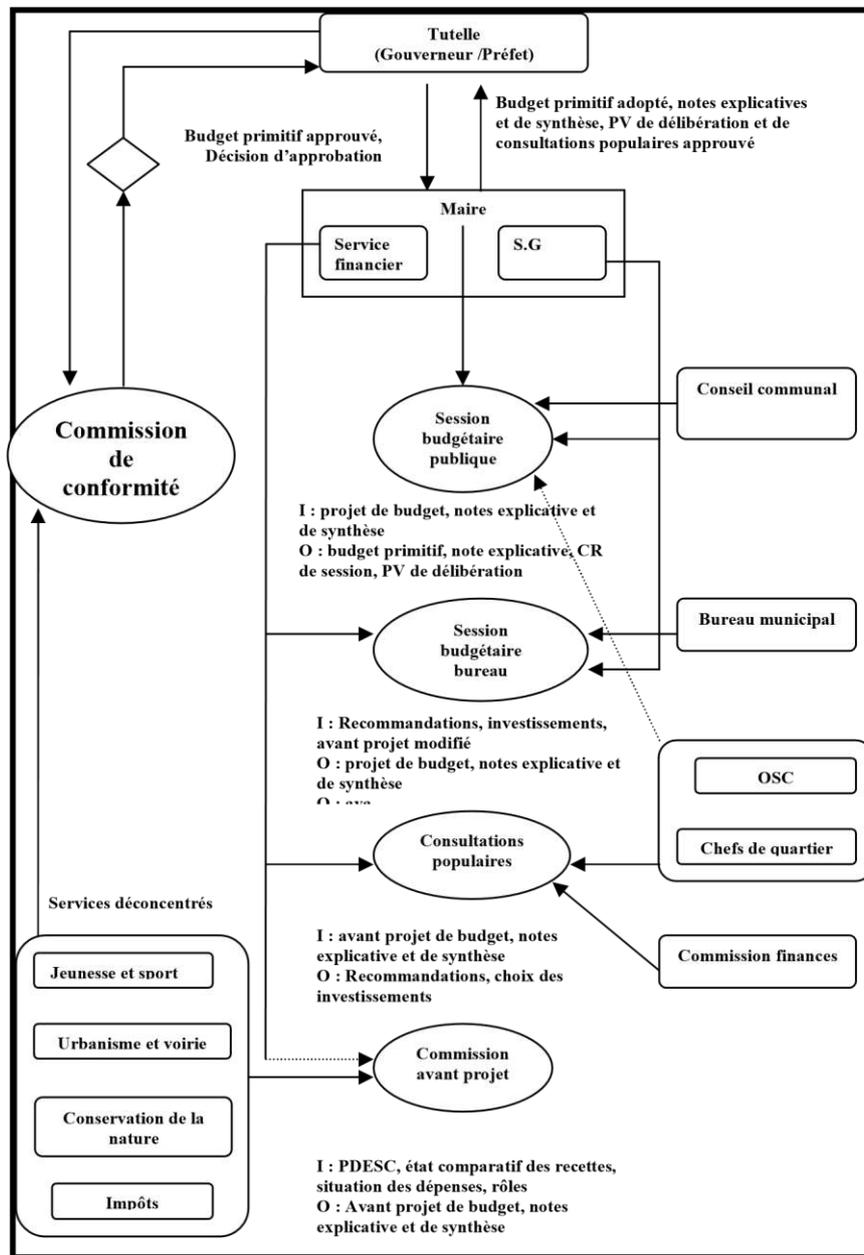
Municipalities sometimes establish partnerships with cities in other countries in the framework of decentralised cooperation. The commitments of these partners are included in a financing agreement for municipal works. They therefore take these agreements into account in their budget forecasts.

The draft budget thus made up of revenue and expenditure forecasts is submitted to the population (according to the law) during neighbourhood and village consultations. The draft is then reworked and submitted a second time for public debate (all citizens, NGOs, etc.).

Finally, the draft budget is submitted to the budget session for adoption. On this occasion, a copy is given to all councillors one week before the session. This session is public and all councillors participate. The draft budget is presented at the budget session by the mayor of the municipality. The following are present at the session

- . the mayor of the municipality ;
- . the councilors of the town hall ;
- . technical services.

The budget session is concluded with the drafting of a certificate of deliberation on the preliminary budget, the session report and the session minutes. Once this phase is over, the budget is adopted. This budget is called the primitive budget and is sent to the supervisory authority for approval. In June, there may be an additional budget with the aim of correcting either errors of assessment or to cover unforeseen expenditure. The preparation of the supplementary budget follows the same procedure as the initial budget.



**Figure 6 Timetable for the preparation, implementation and control of the municipal budget**

The timetable for the preparation, execution and control of the municipal budget is as follows:

- preparatory work starts 5 months before the actual start of implementation. During this period (August-December), the mayor prepares (draft budget, popular consultations, public debates), adopts (during the budget session) and approves the budget by the supervisory authority (Prefect/Governor);
- Implementation lasts for the whole budget year with commitment periods of three months (supplies), six months (salaries) or one year (investments);

- Budgetary control takes place in the first quarter of the year following the budget year.

Figure 7 Timeline of the municipal budget process

Implementation of the municipal budget

On receipt of the decision to approve the budget, the mayors issue an appropriation order covering both revenue and expenditure.

Control of the execution of the municipal budget

At the end of the budget year, the mayor, through his technical services, draws up an administrative account. This document is submitted for adoption to the local councillors at a session known as the administrative account session. This session is generally held in the first quarter of the year following the execution of the budget (N+1). It should be noted that the vote to adopt the administrative account is held in the absence of the mayor. In other words, the authorising officer (i.e. the mayor), after having answered the councillors' questions on the administrative account, withdraws so as not to influence the vote by his presence.

Once adopted, the administrative account is sent to the guardianship for approval. The supervisory authority issues a decision on the approval of the administrative account. Then, the administrative account together with the approval decision, the minutes of the sessions and other annexed documents, is sent to the accounts section of the Supreme Court for a final control. At the same time, the management account drawn up by the public accountant (receiver) is sent to the same accounts section via the national treasury and public accounts department, which checks and gives the mayor discharge for the execution of the budget. Prior to this, working sessions are organised between the financial department and the tax collector to regularise the situation of the issued and liquidated mandates.

Also, it should be noted that the control of the execution of the budget is done at three levels:

- control by the communal council (during the session of the administrative account);
- administrative control (by the guardianship) ;
- judicial review by the Audit Department of the Supreme Court.

Exceptionally, the general state auditor can control the execution of the commune's budget, as was the case in December 2009, for the commune I of Bamako. This kind of control can detect a number of anomalies:

- the failure to hold statutory sessions;
- the absence of an annual inspection of the commune by the supervisory authority;
- the lack of public debate in the budget preparation process;
- the failure to maintain a cash flow statement ;
- the non-justification of previous advances of supplies;
- non-certification of invoices by the authorising officer etc.

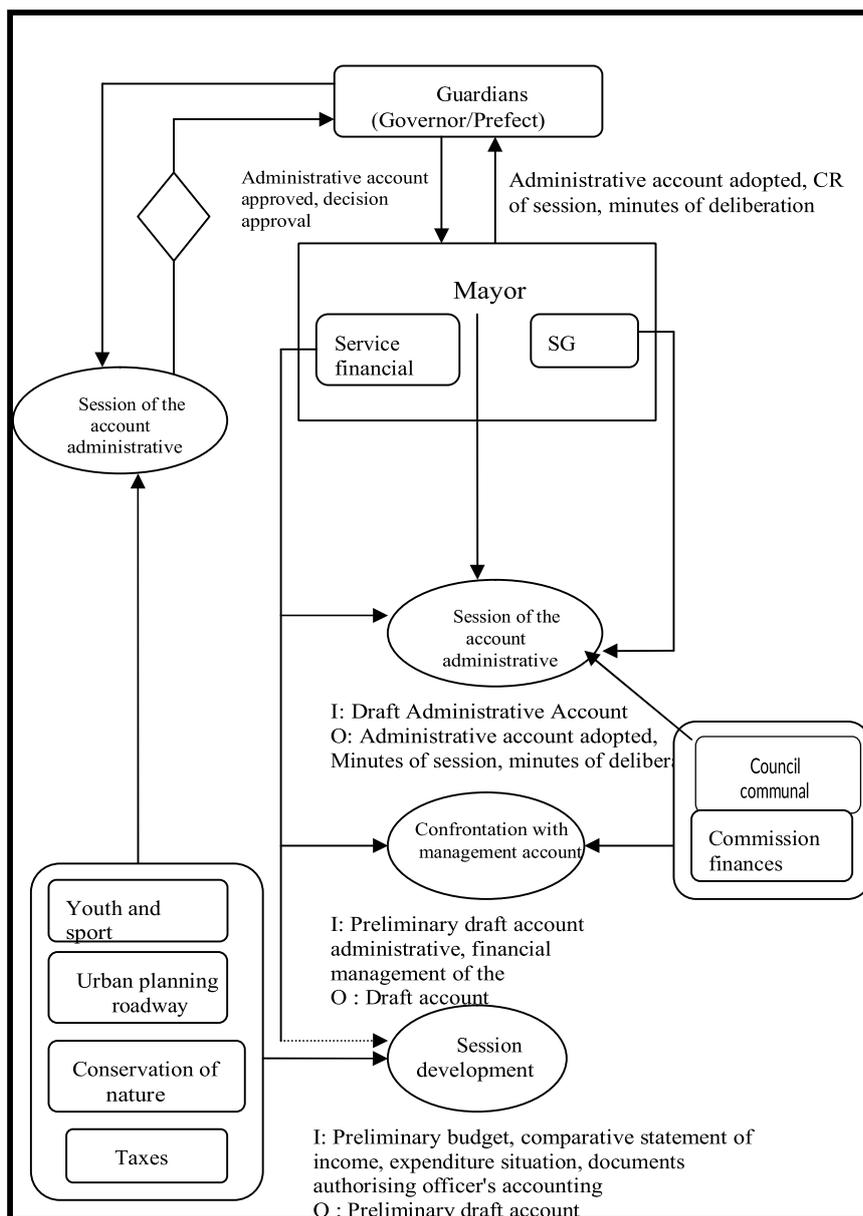


Figure: Budget control 7 diagram

## 5.7. Analysis of the performance framework indicators

### 5.7.1. KEY INDICATORS

#### 5.1.1. KEY INDICATORS

**Result I. Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners.**

**Indicator 1.1: Number of actions in which communities make requests for improved services (WASH and nutrition).**

Community participation in formulating demands for improved nutrition and WASH services

The communities participate in the session on the administrative account, the session on the supplementary budget, the session on the setting of taxes and fees, the session on the primitive budget and the process of elaborating the budget allocated to health. These representatives are essentially the village chief and his advisors, youth representatives and representatives of women's organisations. These representatives participate in the process of drawing up the budget allocated to health, through representatives who are essentially the village chief and his advisors, youth representatives and representatives of women's organisations.

Conclusion: Communities are already participating in the accountability spaces and can therefore formulate their demands for improvement. It remains for civil society to work on documenting the number of requests made by communities and the positive responses received, and the types of issues receiving positive feedback,?

Findings: In general, 04 spaces for formulating demands are used by communities at

**Indicator 1.2. Proportion of people from vulnerable or marginalized groups (women, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, etc.) involved in actions to make demands for improvement (WASH and nutrition).**

the communal level: It is necessary to specify the types of actions in which communities participate. It is necessary to specify the types of actions in which the communities participate. For example, to say whether they are advocacy actions. According to the results of this study, it is community leaders who participate in accountability spaces and not ordinary vulnerable people. Town halls usually invite those who can mobilise the community and make decisions.

Conclusion: Vulnerable people do not participate in accountability spaces.

Recommendation: Reword the indicator as "proportion of people from vulnerable or marginalised groups participating in accountability spaces". This could be the first step before making requests for improvements.

**Indicator 1.3. Proportion of targeted barriers to good nutrition and/or WASH services successfully addressed by joint community and private sector initiatives.**

**Targeted barriers to good nutrition and/or WASH services**

According to the respondents, the main obstacles dealt with the effectiveness of the management of malnutrition settings, the insufficiency of supervision missions of the GSANs and the weak community mobilisation.

**Economic barriers**

- Unemployment/poverty: Low incomes (high food and non-food expenses such as housing, electricity, water, transport in relation to household income);
- Soaring food prices during the lean season: Lack of organisation/post-harvest management and non-compliance with price control measures.

**Environmental barriers**

- Low rainfall in the region and/or drought/climate change: climate (delayed or insufficient rainfall) with crop conditions remaining unchanged in recent years;
- Lack of guidance/low adoption of climate resilient techniques/vulnerabilities: composting/agro-ecology/Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)/Agroforestry/Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA).

**Institutional barriers**

- lack of coordination of stakeholders' actions;
- lack of capacity and leadership of the National Nutrition Council (NNC);
- lack of coordination between the SUN and SWA;
- Lack of means and motivation of technical services (agriculture, livestock etc.).

**Structural barriers**

- Lack of local labour for maintenance and repair of water points;
- Low knowledge of good hygiene practices ;
- Frequent break in water supply

**Social barriers**

- The burden of feeding and washing rests almost entirely on women;
- Men have a very strong involvement in nutrition, wash and health issues;

- Conclusion: The major barriers that can be targeted by the project are institutional and structural barriers. To some extent, social barriers as awareness raising can take into account a better involvement of men.

## Outcome II. Civil society organisations (CSOs)

### **Indicator 2.1: Number of times CSOs have succeeded in creating space for their demands and positions by setting the agenda, influencing the debate and/or creating space for engagement**

Most of the actions in which CSOs participate are initiatives with agendas set by decision-makers. Under this indicator, 1 out of 7 CSOs carried out an initiative that could influence the debate. The others mainly carried out activities in the context of behaviour change.

Conclusion: CSOs at the local level are not used to carrying out advocacy initiatives. At the national level, there is an average of 2 per year.

This implies that CSOs need to have a clear mapping of advocacy opportunities and clearly defined messages to carry out their own advocacy initiatives.

### **INDICATOR 2.3: Proportion of CSO-led advocacy initiatives for, by or with their members/constitutions addressing gender issues related to nutrition and WASH**

According to the results, all the facilities interviewed had participated in at least one gender advocacy initiative. They rarely initiated gender-sensitive advocacy activities in WASH and nutrition. Each organisation interviewed had conducted at least one advocacy initiative. None of the organisations approached confirmed that they had carried out an action that had been accepted at the political level. "We have started a national, regional, local and communal (Kayes, Koulikoro, Ségou, Sikasso) advocacy campaign on food and nutrition security. At the national level, the campaign aims to constitutionalise (integrate into the constitution) food and nutrition security. At the regional, local and communal level, advocate for the integration of food and nutrition security in development programmes through influential groups (platforms, alliances). To this end, we have developed a civil society position paper on food and nutrition security called "Policy Note"," said the head of an organisation we approached.

All organisations interviewed confirmed that they take into account gender aspects of nutrition in their advocacy initiatives, although the need for training on gender sensitivity in nutrition and washing was repeatedly raised during this study.

Above all, they remain committed to changing people's behaviour.

#### **Indicator D.1: Number of CSOs with increased L&A capacity.**

Five CSO/NGO members of Right2Grow report that they have already initiated advocacy and lobbying activities, which illustrates that they have a basis for doing so. In the context of the Right2Grow programme, it is important that all CSOs have a stronger capacity and that this helps to mobilise other CSOs to become involved in advocacy.

**Result III. National government and decentralised entities adopt and integrate an integrated and multi-spectrum approach to undernutrition into policies, action plans and budget allocations through participatory CSO processes.**

#### **INDICATOR 3.2: Number of laws, policies and standards/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development.**

None of the organisations approached confided that they had proposed a law. However, in terms of policies and certain laws, some NGOs/CSOs have been active for years, particularly in participating in the process of revising national policies to adapt them to the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, the National Food and Nutritional Security Policy (PoINSAN), whose 2019-2028 action plan includes a number of projects to update laws and regulations. There is also the revision of the national water and sanitation policies and the water code as well as the multisectoral nutrition action plan.

However, for the next steps of the Right2Grow programme, it is advisable to take into account local decisions that can be influenced. These decisions, law making and policy/programme development/revision should be monitored and analysed at all geographical levels of governance (national, regional, local and communal). The indicator should be modified to reflect this.

**INDICATOR 3.3: Percentage of government budgets allocated and implemented for nutrition and WASH services (increased funding)**

At the national level, Mali devotes 0.7% of its overall health budget to nutrition. As the communal budget nomenclature does not allow for the capture of WASH and nutrition data from the communal budget, civil society, and in particular Right2Grow, will need to invest in the development of communal WASH and nutrition budget analysis tools and initiatives with the support of technical services and communal authorities as well as specialised research and analysis centres. However, with regard to the national budget, it is possible to extract lines relating to nutrition and WASH.

Conclusion: The budgets made available to us by the Secretaries General of the town halls approached do not show either the Nut or the Wash budgets. They only have at their disposal a health budget which should normally include nutrition.

**Result IV. Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate within the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition.**

**INDICATOR 4.1: Level of success of lobbying and advocacy roles of R2G and its partners with donors and international actors.**

Civil society has been very active in the :

- Advocating for membership of the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism ;
- Advocating for commitments at the Nutrition for Growth forum

She is active in clusters and working groups on humanitarian but also development and the SUN movement with a good track record of communication with donors.

**INDICATOR 4.2: Extent to which donors integrate the WASH-Nutrition nexus as part of the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition - sanitation and hygiene**

To date, two successful even medium-level initiatives are the Advocacy in the framework of SUN and in the framework of SWA

Respondents rate the degree of integration of WASH with nutrition as very low. On a scale (very low - low - medium - acceptable - very good) then rural communes are between very low and low, and urban communes are between low and medium. However, many stakeholders and donors are in favour of integrating Wash into Nutrition such as UNICEF, SIDA, USAID, Canada. In addition, in Mali, the authorities have strengthened the integration mechanism by entrusting the Chief Medical Officer of the Health District with the responsibility for Nutrition and Wash in the health sector. In addition, the new multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2021-2021 includes a WASH axis and takes into account gender mainstreaming. The country also has a national WASH and Nutrition strategy.

Intermediate outcome C. Community and civil society organisations regularly engage with local government in programming and financial planning.		
C.1	# of CSOs and CSOs consulted in programming and budgeting exercises (multi-annual) <b>Initial: 0</b>	1. Copies of invitations 2. Minutes of the programming and budgeting sessions 3. Copies of CSO technical notes registered by the communal council and/or the National Assembly, half-yearly activity report of NGOs and the consortium
C.3	Number of CSOs that have developed and implemented integrated advocacy strategies on nutrition and water and sanitation. <b>Initial: 0</b>	Half-yearly activity report
Intermediate outcome D. Community and civil society organisations have the legitimacy and capacity to voice the concerns of marginalised and disempowered people.		
D.1 Mandatory	Number of CSOs with increased L&A capacity <b>Initial: 5</b>	Self-assessment survey / Electronic or paper survey targeting CSOs, community-based organisations.
Intermediate outcome E. Data on pathways and implementation gaps inform policy development.		

E.1	Number of position papers and policy briefs prepared by CSOs <b>Initial 3</b>	Half-yearly activity report
E.2	Number of Study, Budget Analysis and Research Reports	Half-yearly activity report
Intermediate result F. The multi-sectoral approach is reflected in sectoral policies and action plans.		
F.1	Number of multi-sectoral consultation frameworks initiated and those supported by R2G <b>Initial: 04</b>	Half-yearly activity report
Intermediate outcome G. International actors participate in cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, share data and engage in joint programming.		
Highly recommended G.1	# meetings involving multi-sectoral coordination between humanitarian and development actors and donors on WASH and nutrition to share experiences and strengthen the evidence base <b>Initial: 5</b>	Half-yearly activity report

## Main challenges and directions

### Challenges to be met

The main challenges are

- Low awareness of the rights and duties of citizens in relation to nutrition and Wash
- Low awareness of good practice in terms of nutrition and Wash
- The very low budget devoted to nutrition (0.7%) and that of the Wash (3.62% in 2020) and its lack of control at the municipal level

### Major guidelines to be taken into account

- Strengthening CSOs in formulating and conducting budgetary and technical advocacy at the communal, local and national levels
- Linking local consultation actions to the institutional framework of decentralisation
- Strengthening the partnership between the SUN and SWA movements in Mali through joint advocacy action plans
- Increase monitoring of international nutrition and WASH commitments
- Strong involvement of young people and women in the implementation of the programme, particularly at the communal level but also in the governance of the programme.

## 6. MAPPING OF INTERVENTIONS, TARGET GROUPS AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

### 6.1. Stakeholder mapping

#### 6.1.1. Key government departments in charge of the sectors:

Actors	Roles and responsibilities
SOMAPEP	Developing the drinking water infrastructure and controlling the operator in urban areas within the concession area
SOMAGEP	Manage and operate urban drinking water infrastructure within the concession area
DNH	Develop regulations, monitor and manage water resources at the national level Support/advice to communities
DNACPN	Supervising and monitoring environmental impact procedures; Ensure compliance with sanitation legislation and standards Support/advice to communities
ANGESEM	Ensuring the sustainable management of wastewater treatment plants and related works at national level
DNUH	Developing and implementing elements of national policy on urban planning, housing and construction
LNE	Controlling and monitoring water quality at national level

In terms of nutrition, the key directions are:

- the Directorate General of Health and Public Hygiene and its sub-directorates of nutrition and hygiene
- the Nutrition Coordination Unit
- the office of the food security commissioner

In the area of climate change, the Agency for the Environment and Sustainable Development (AEDD) and the National Directorate for Sanitation, Pollution and Nuisance Control (DNACPN) should be mentioned.

Partner category	Areas of intervention	Types of partnership
Embassy of the Netherlands	Food safety Climate change	Support to synergy of actions with other

Partner category	Areas of intervention	Types of partnership
	Strengthening civil society Type	NGOs/CSOs partners of the Embassy Involvement in complementary activities to Right2grow
<b>Major donors</b> UNICEF, CANADA, USAID, WFP	Nutrition and WASH Food safety Climate change Strengthening civil society Type	Synergy of actions Carrying messages
Ministries and technical services of the State	Policy making and conduct Support for the integration of WASH with other sectors Sector coordination Advisory support	Collaboration
NGOs and local associations / Community-based organisations	Direct WaterAid field staff with local experience and expertise Actions on sustainability	Partnership/ collaboration
Local and regional authorities	Project management, Prioritisation of EPHA in local planning ;	Collaboration
Networks of civil society organisations	Advocacy and influencing policy and practice Promoting Accountability	Partnership
Service providers	Provision of services Marketing Sanitation	Contractualisation
PTF	Mobilising financial resources Government influence Implementation of the Memorandum from the Sector Consultation Framework	collaboration
Local press, traditional communicators and journalists' network	Behaviour change communication Social mobilisation Campaigns	Collaboration
International NGOs	Alliance, networking, Exchange of best practices, contribution to the TrackFin and SWA process	Collaboration

Table 12 Stakeholder mapping:

Actors	Roles and responsibilities
Local and regional authorities	Project management, Resource mobilisation and investment, organisation of local public services, providing basic urban services
ADR	Assistance to the project owner, Delegated project management, The planning of development operations in the areas of competence of local authorities;

	Preparation and programming of development operations related to the improvement of infrastructure, equipment and/or public services for the population; Management of local authority services; Mobilisation of resources for the financing of regional and local development
<b>Actors</b>	<b>Roles and responsibilities</b>
Sanitation associations	Social mobilisation and awareness raising
Ozone	Pre-collection and collection of solid waste, cleaning and sweeping
CDQ	Neighbourhood development action, volunteering
Coordination of neighbourhood leaders	Awareness raising, social intermediation, relaying to the population
RECOTRAD	Citizen mobilisation, awareness raising and social intermediation, communication tools

Table 13 Roles and responsibilities of water sector actors

### 6.1.2. Private sector

It is not very developed in the area of WASH apart from a few companies such as UDUMA in the Sikasso and Bougouni regions. There are also STEFIs, particularly in the Kayes area. In addition, there are local repairers of water points, as well as solid and liquid sanitation contractors such as MSEs and waste processing companies.

In the field of nutrition, the private sector is diversified, some of which is a member of the SUN private sector movement. In the communes, this private sector is present in the form of women's and young people's groups that process local products, particularly those with a high nutritional value such as moringa, potatoes, legumes, etc.

**ACTION MOPTI** works closely with local authorities (communal council, cercle council and regional assembly) in the development and implementation of social, economic and cultural development programmes (PDSEC), parents' associations and community health associations. In addition to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it receives support from the European Union, USAID, Belgian Cooperation, PROTOS (as part of the GIRE DIN project) and UNICEF.

**EAU VIVE ASSOCIATION:** Eau Vive creates a synergy of action between local actors (elected representatives, village representatives of management structures) and technical partners in order to achieve a shared understanding of management strategies for sustainable access to drinking water.

**ASSOCIATION ILE ET VILAINE:** It intervenes in the framework of water governance and takes into account the gender aspect in the analysis and search for solutions. In particular, it has innovated by supporting the participation of women in the management structures of water points.

**CARITAS - MOPTI:** intervenes mainly in the following areas: finance (increasing the income of women and young people in the productive sectors); cereal production; hydraulics (control of surface and deep waters); education and health; and emergency issues.

**GRAT:** is a key actor in the implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management in the Inner Niger Delta (GIREDIN) programme of the NGO PROTOS. While the GRAT is also involved in improving access to drinking water and sanitation through the construction of drinking water and sanitation points (wells, boreholes, mini-drinking water conveyance, public latrines) and in multiple uses (irrigated rice fields and market gardens), it is in the field of governance that it proposes innovative approaches and tools.

**MISSION EVANGELIQUE LUTHERIENNE AU MALI:** intervenes mainly in the fields of hydraulics and maternal and child health. In the field of access to drinking water and sanitation, it carries out the following activities: the construction of wells, the setting up and supervision of management committees, and hygiene and sanitation activities.

**PROTOS:** intervenes particularly in four circles: Mopti, Djenné, Tenenkou and Youwarou. Fourteen communes are covered by the interventions which extend to drinking water supply and sanitation. In the context of drinking water supply, the actions concern the installation of large diameter wells and boreholes.

**WATAERAID:** is implementing a regional advocacy programme for water and sanitation. This programme aims, among other things, to assess and provide strategic information on the sector, identify needs and build the capacity of sector actors to carry out projects in this area.

**Helen Keller International NGOs,** beyond the expertise and reputation it brings to the field, the main added value of the Carter Center is the image and legitimacy it enjoys, in this case, with administrative and political authorities. ITI develops with its partners awareness campaigns on trachoma. The impact of these campaigns, namely the decrease in the number of reported cases, is perceptible.

**Winrock International:** has developed a wealth of experience in the Segou region with regard to the multiple and sustainable use of water. This type of experience has also been developed by World Vision in its areas of intervention, particularly in the San circle. Winrock International's intervention methodology, based on the economic

development approach and expertise in the development of adapted technologies, contributes greatly to making water available and to a more efficient use of this resource in the intervention villages.

**The Frederich Ebert Foundation and the Swiss NGO Helvetas** are involved in conflict management in the area of natural resource management in general. The actions of the Frederich Ebert Foundation focus on the training of actors on the subject of conflict management. These trainings serve to raise awareness among the various actors involved. In addition to the training of actors (villagers, community councillors, agents of the deconcentrated technical services, etc.), Helvetas helps to set up village and community committees responsible for managing conflicts related to natural resources.

In order to involve the identified private community actors in information, sensitisation, change of good practice in hygiene, health, sanitation, food security and support to nutrition actions in the communities, special emphasis should be put on these areas of competence in order to make these actors capable of actively participating in the strategy of support to the improvement of nutrition, food and wash policy at local level.

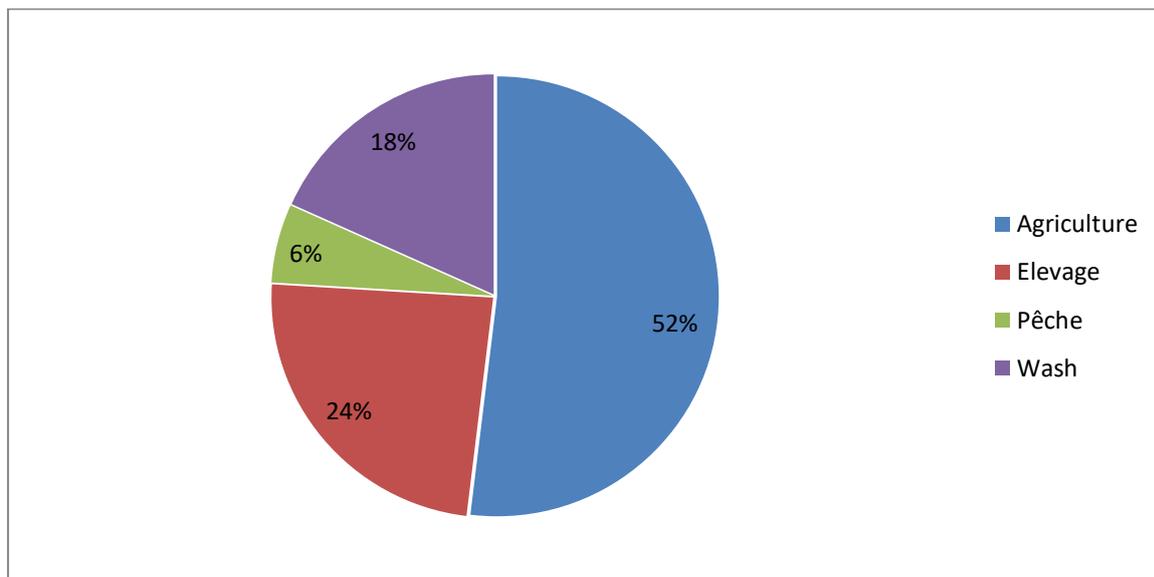


Figure 8 Distribution of actors by sector

In addition, there are units for processing and marketing agricultural, livestock and fisheries products in the areas surveyed. Indeed, the results of the individual and focus group interviews show that there is at least one marketing unit for local products in the communes. The existing infrastructures in the project's communes show that it is easier to access agricultural products than other products derived from livestock and fishing. Indeed, the units for the sale of agricultural products are more numerous with 70% of existing infrastructure against 33%, for the units intended for the sale of livestock products, we have only 19% for the units for the marketing of fishery products.

The analysis of the data from the mapping of community actors shows that in each commune of the Right to Grow project there is at least one processing unit for agro-pastoral products with high nutritional value, of which 100%, compared to 87.5% of no for units processing fishery products and 87.57% of no for units processing livestock products in the various communes surveyed. We can affirm that the communes have few adequate, adapted and functional infrastructures necessary for the processing of local products.

The typological analysis of community actors involved in nutrition, the Wash and food security indicates a significant presence of women in the production, conservation, processing and marketing of local products.

In Sikasso, of the organisations surveyed, 32.79% of the cooperatives, 70.59% of the associations/mutuals, 100% of the nutrition support groups (GSAN) and 100% of the women's health service users' committees (CFUSS) are exclusively female.

In Koutiala, of the organisations surveyed, 61.54% of the cooperatives and 11.24% of the associations/mutuals are exclusively women.

Analysis of the results of the surveys carried out among the actors shows that more than half of them are involved in the agricultural sector: the cultivation of cereals, tubers, forest products (mango), market garden produce, seeds, etc. In addition to production, this sector covers the processing, conservation and marketing of agricultural products. In addition to production, this sector covers the processing, conservation and marketing of agricultural products.

Next to agriculture, livestock is the second most important sector for communities in terms of income-generating activities. This covers the marketing of cattle, sheep and goats, fattening and, secondarily, milk production.

The fishing sector is poorly represented in the municipalities covered by the survey. The results of the analysis show that this sector is almost non-existent.

Analysis of the data from the Wash sector shows that communities are more involved in hygiene and sanitation activities and less involved in water management, even though we note the presence of functional drinking water systems in the areas surveyed.

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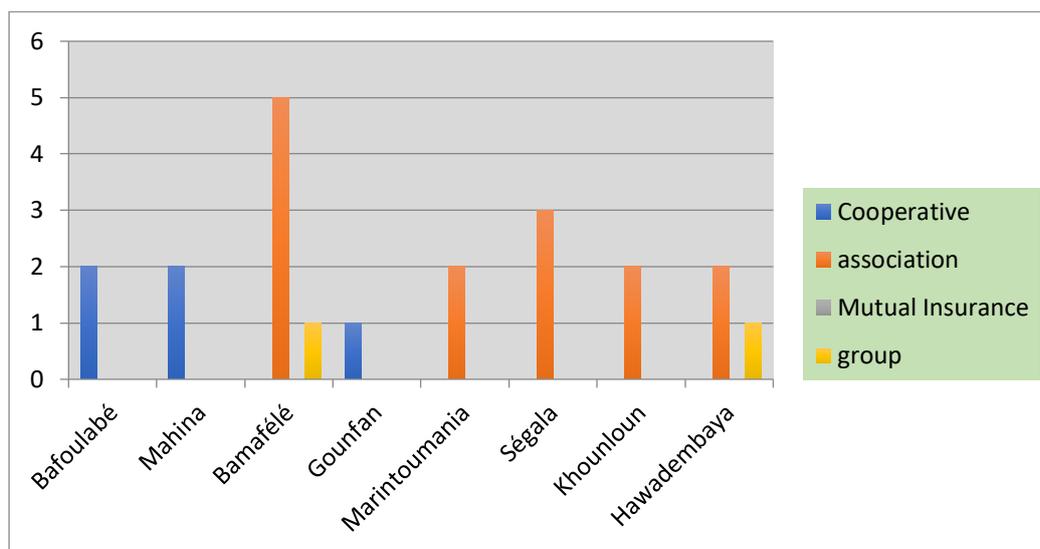
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### Mapping KAYES

There are three processing units, including two dairies (Ségala and Khounloun) and the soap factory in Gounfan (Assainissement). There is a crucial lack of processing units in all the communes.

**1 Processing units for agricultural products:** There are three processing units, including two dairies (Ségala and Khounloun) and the soap factory in Gounfan (Assainissement). There is a crucial lack of processing units in all the communes.

**Type of private actor:** At the level of the 8 communes, the study identified cooperatives and associations.



**Figure 9** Map of processing units in Kayes

They concern cereal banks for three communes (2 in Bamafélé and Gounfan) and 1 in Hawadembaya). As for livestock farming, these are the dairies of Ségala and Khouloun

### **Main difficulties related to the activities of the grouping/association/cooperative?**

- 1) Irregularity of meetings, mismanagement of funds, lack of funding
- 2) Insufficient capacity building, lack of motivation of members
- 3) low collection rate of household contributions

#### 4) Lack of sanitation materials

Main difficulties linked to the sale of agricultural products: the isolation of the communes, the lack and cost of transport, the distance from potential markets and the low conservation capacity of the products

There is no formal structure in the communes of Mahina and Gounfan in relation to the survey areas. Of those identified, only the five in Bafoulabé and Bamafélé are formal. The Nutrition Support Groups (GSAN) are an emanation of UNICEF and Action Contre Faim AMADECOM. They are located only in the communes of the Kayes circle. However, it is important to note the presence of national NGOs: AMCFF, AMASSA, DONKO and international NGOs such as: Helen Keller International (HKI), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), WHH, GIZ, GRDR; the Red Cross, USAID and the specialised agencies of the United Nations (UNICEF, FAO), which support these communes in relation to the various aspects of the study.

Very few formal private structures involved in nutrition, WASH and food security.

The existence of the GSAN created by UNICEF, ACF and AMADECOM in the Kayes circle. In fact, these are associations that work voluntarily to identify malnourished children and raise awareness. In addition, there is the multisectoral platform for WASH nutrition in the Kayes Circle. This entity galvanises nutrition activities in the communes in an exponential way.

However, it is important to note the presence of national NGOs: AMCFF, AMASSA, DONKO and international NGOs such as: Helen Keller International (HKI), Action Against Hunger (ACF), WHH, GIZ, GRDR; Red Cross, USAID and the United Nations specialised agencies (UNICEF, FAO) which support these communes in relation to the various aspects of the study.

For water points (boreholes, AES PMH) there are management committees in almost all villages. Their functionality is highly appreciated.

Only two associations are involved in sanitation in the commune of Bafoulabé (Bafoulabé circle).

#### **The main production challenges :**

1. Lack / insufficiency of agricultural equipment (tractors, multi-cultivators)  
;
2. Soil poverty, erosion, lack of suitable seeds;
3. Drought, roaming animals, funding, lack of rain;
4. Presence of predators (insects and birds).

The main difficulties related to the conservation of the products are :

1. No storage warehouse,
2. no drying materials

The main difficulties related to the marketing of products :

1. Enclavement of villages, poor state of roads, tracks, means and cost of transport;
2. Lack of a fixed point of sale at the market in Kayesules the cooperatives in the commune of Bafoulabé are affiliated to CAFO.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Diligent advocacy for the implementation of the multisectoral platform in the cercle of Bafoulabé;
- To create a framework of dialogue for the implementation of the GSAN at the level of the Right2Grow Communes of the Bafoulabé circle;
- Strengthen town halls to ensure that women are widely involved in the management of water points;
- Reinvigorate the creation of grain banks in the communes.

## 7. PARTNER CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

The objectives of the capacity data analysis were to

- Understanding capacity and learning gaps and needs a) at country level b) at Global Consortium level ;
- Identify potential providers of expertise that can meet the needs within the Right2Grow Consortium;
- Inform country prioritisation workshops and support the development of country-specific mutual capacity building and learning strategies;
- Provide a benchmark for monitoring progress in capacity building and learning over time.

The table below shows the lowest and highest needs for technical knowledge and skills development. The capacity building needs are grouped according to the four outcomes of the Right2Grow programme.

Right2Grow programme results	Knowledge area where the need for capacity building is greatest	Knowledge area with the lowest need for capacity building
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<p><b>Result 1:</b> Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners.</p>	<p>Working with community-based private sector partners (59%)</p>	<p>Mobilisation and engagement of the community, while ensuring significant participation of women and youth (31.5%)</p>
<p><b>Result 2:</b> Representative and empowered civil society organisations (CSOs) effectively navigate the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition and poor WASH conditions.</p>	<p>Budget monitoring and expenditure tracking (54%)</p>	<p>Designing context-specific, evidence-based advocacy strategies (23%)</p>
<p><b>Result 3:</b> The national government and decentralised entities adopt and integrate an integrated and multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition into policies, action plans and budget allocations.</p>	<p>Review of existing legislation (60%)</p>	<p>Understand the basic principles of the WASH-nutrition nexus and the multisectoral approach to nutrition (41%)</p>
<p><b>Result 4:</b> Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition</p>	<p>Lobby donors for better funding for nutrition and water, to sanitation and hygiene, and for programming multisectoral (45.5%)</p>	<p>Advocating for more action on the objectives of the sustainable development (36%)</p>

Table 14 Results framework of the Right2Grow project

Looking at the average needs expressed by outcome, the data suggests that the greatest capacity building efforts should be invested in **Outcome 3** (53%), followed by **Outcome 1** (46%), and **Outcome 4** (39%) and **Outcome 2** (35%). These elements should be discussed and validated in the prioritisation workshops as part of the strategic thinking and detailed planning processes.

### The most emerging M&E strengths and training needs

**Capacity building priorities for 2022 :**

Identify information needs for cross-cutting themes (gender, inclusion, disability)  
Integrating child protection measures into M&E tools and protocols  
M&E tools to measure women and youth involvement

**Capacity building priorities for 2023 :**

Methodology on the most significant change  
Degree of social accountability  
History of change

Table 15 Training priorities 2022-2023 of the Right2Grow project

### Regarding the results of the survey on learning and sharing

This survey sought to address the issue of learning and sharing at three levels:

**At the individual level:** the respondent's individual professional learning practices

**Organisational level:** the learning and sharing practices of the organisation to which the respondent belongs

**At the Right2Grow consortium level:** the respondent's personal expectations regarding Learning and Sharing in Right2Grow

Learning and Sharing in Right2Grow is like a mode of collaboration and exchange that encompasses all three levels by creating a learning culture in the Right2Grow consortium that engages both structures and individuals.

**At the individual level,** 100% of respondents are aware of the importance of learning for progress and impact and 100% of respondents make time for learning and sharing in their diaries and carry out learning activities. Respondents appear to have feedback mechanisms in place. For example, 88% of individuals regularly do reflective exercises to learn from their past practices and 100% of respondents use lessons learned to adapt their practices.

**At the level of organisations:** However, when it comes to the organisations in which respondents work, the % decreases (although it still remains at high levels). Only 84% (vs. 100% at the individual level) find that they have time for learning and sharing in their team and 85% consider that they have a formalised process for collecting learning and sharing good practice within their organisation.

**At Right2Grow level:** clear and widely shared expectations of the R2G consortium:

- 100% of respondents want to see a system in place to share good reviews within the consortium;
- 100% want to strengthen the capitalization and sharing of community knowledge;

- 100% of respondents want to be supported to make better use of the lessons learned in adaptive management.

In conclusion, as individuals, the Mali teams already have an appetite for and understanding of learning and sharing and its added value. The focus should be on strengthening the processes, spaces and tools for formalising/systematising learning and sharing at the level of the constituent organisations and the wider consortium. Emphasis will also be placed on the creation of a community of learners, on the implementation of adaptive management and better capitalisation of community knowledge. These elements will be discussed and validated during the strategic reflection and detailed planning workshops with all partners.

#### **D. Common organisational development needs that could be addressed by the Right2Grow programme**

The three emerging organizational development priorities for Right2Grow Mali are

Development of a clear and effective communication and/or advocacy strategy to accelerate progress towards organisational goals (54%)

Resource mobilisation, including the development of financial resource mobilisation strategy and plans (50%)

Strengthening relationships with different media channels to disseminate communication and advocacy messages (46%).

## **8. FORMATIVE EVALUATION**

### Analysis of the situation :

The Malian economy is fundamentally based on the primary sector, driven by agriculture (cotton, cereals, livestock). It is strongly influenced by the vagaries of the climate and the variation in the price of raw materials on the international market.

In terms of nutrition, significant progress has been made over the past decade despite the deterioration at the highest level of the security crisis that has affected the country since 2012.

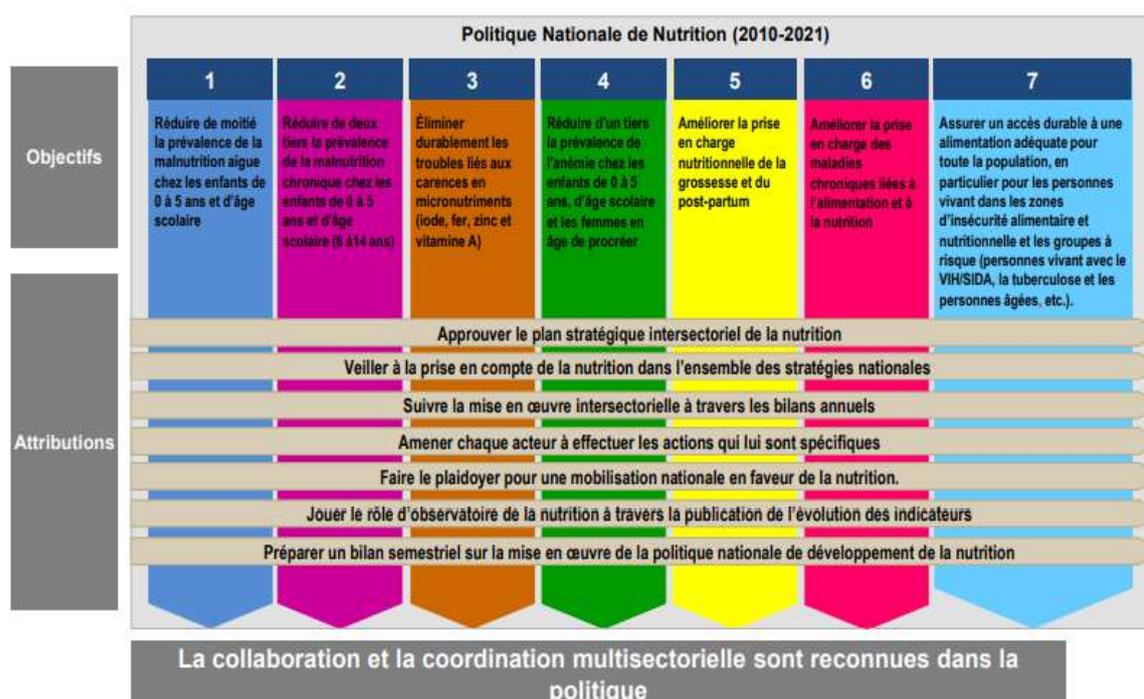
A strong political will to reduce malnutrition has resulted in - The country's joining the UN REACH partnership in 2011 and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in 2012. - The adoption of the national nutrition policy and its action plan in 2013. - The establishment of the Nutrition Coordination Unit as a formal coordination structure in

2016. The different government sectors involved in the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MNAP) each have a focal point. Decentralised coordination bodies exist and are clearly defined in the policy but are not operational.

The implementation of nutrition programmes and the completion of two mapping exercises in 2016 and 2018 have also shown that it is possible to improve the nutritional situation of the Malian population by capitalising on the experience gained, accelerating efforts while respecting the balance between the various sectors and enhancing their contributions in a synergistic manner.

It is in this context that the review of plans, policies and strategies was initiated in order to better organise, strengthen and federate the synergies of actions and boost interventions in favour of nutrition in Mali.

1) National Nutrition Policy 2) National Food and Nutritional Security Policy 3) National Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition 4) National Food and Nutritional Security Policy of Mali 5) Ten-year Health and Social Development Plan 6) National Family Planning Action Plan of Mali 7) Strategic Plan to Fight Malaria 8) Agricultural Development Policy of Mali 9) National Livestock Policy 10) National Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Policy 11) National Agricultural Investment Plan 12) National Water Policy 13) National Sanitation Policy 14) National Drinking Water Supply Development Strategy 15) National Gender Policy 16) Ten-Year Education Development Programme: Les Grandes Orientations de la Politique Educative 17) UNDAF.



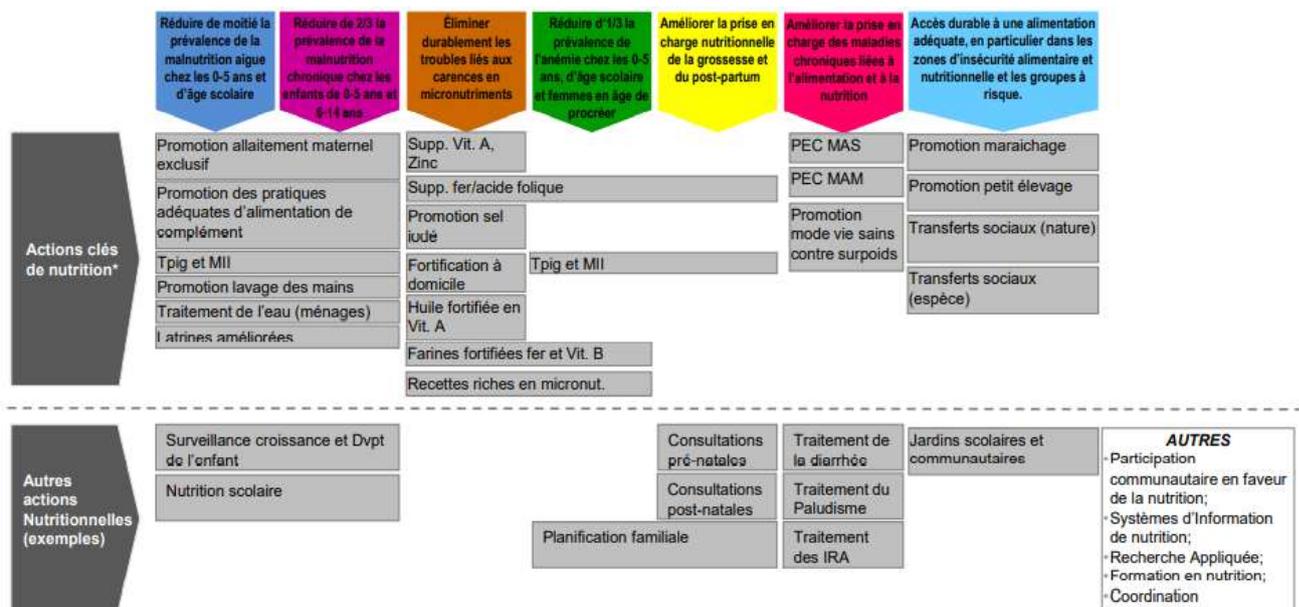


Figure 10 National Nutrition Policy Framework 201-2021

Advocacy opportunities :

They concern food availability, food accessibility, health/nutrition, gender and inclusion, water and sanitation.

Suggestions for action :

**In relation to food availability :**

- Advocate for the design of vulnerability response plans at national, regional and local levels (down to village/field level) with a focus on mainstreaming the use of resilience techniques such as the use of improved seeds, extension of composting/agro-ecology/Assisted Natural Regeneration/climate-smart agriculture practices, erosion control, crop rotation and reforestation;
- Extension of climate-resilient agricultural techniques such as the adoption of composting/agro-ecology/assisted natural regeneration (ANR)/climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices, and reforestation. Particular emphasis should be placed on the extension of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices through, among others, reforestation, erosion control, crop rotation, adoption of appropriate crop residue management practices, use of organic animal manure, increased access to extension and/or information/advice services for CSA adoption, increased access to weather information; creation of mechanisms for increased access to advice/information on weather-based crop insurance; organisation of agricultural fairs (seed fairs) or field days or exhibitions during the season;

- To popularise the production of organic fertiliser (liquid or not) based on local products (moringa, neem) useful for the land, the environment (preservation of bees for example) and for human health;
- To popularise the production of bio-pesticides based on local products and with diverse properties: insecticides, insect repellents, ascaris, fungicides based on plants only (chilli, tobacco, neem, ash, garlic, papaya, moringa, etc.);
- Promote the planting of tree species (drought resistant) with high added value or high nutritional value such as Moringa (for a balanced diet, rich and varied in macro- and micro-nutrients at household level) during days organised at national, regional and local level, in particular the World Environment Day celebrated each year on 5 June;
- Sensitise communities to avoid excessive sale of agricultural/chickpea production that compromises year-round food availability and/or the share for self-consumption within households;
- Popularise at local/village level the techniques of managing agricultural products (risk management, post-harvest management) and keeping management documents (monitoring inputs, monitoring the volume of production, calculating the profitability of productive activities, monitoring the value of sales, forecasting sufficient quantities for consumption within households)
- Support each production unit in developing a post-harvest management plan with sufficient stocks to cover food needs throughout the year.
- Promote fodder crops in communities (local products with high nutritional value for animals);
- Promote the cultivation of products that promote animal health (moringa, nettle, cauliflower etc.).

#### **In relation to food access :**

- Strengthening the supply of cereal banks ;
- Strengthen the capacity of cereal bank managers in storage techniques;
- Solve the problem of market supply and set up a system allowing producers (cooperatives, companies) to produce in all seasons through the gradual introduction of modern agriculture (in greenhouses, for example) or the cultivation of crops adapted to each season;
- Establish mechanisms to regulate prices of foodstuffs other than rice and meat (vegetables, fruits and other cereals) while taking measures to enforce these prices.

#### **Health/Nutrition**

- Strengthen the capacity of communities to detect signs and forms of malnutrition: underweight (weight/age), prevalence of stunting (height/age) and wasting (weight/height);
- Integrate into local plans awareness-raising actions on the real causes of malnutrition, including, among others, abrupt or early weaning, poor food distribution within households, unavailability of food rich in micronutrients/proteins, infectious and parasitic diseases among children, such as measles or diarrhoea, the non-respect of birth spacing, the poor health coverage of the population in certain localities, vulnerability factors such as natural disasters, severe undernutrition due to a very insufficient overall food intake (vitamin and mineral deficiencies);
- Promote the production and consumption of rich and varied foods based on local products that are easily accessible in the communities;
- Advocacy for the establishment of a mechanism to motivate Relais/ASC involving village leaders, Community Health Associations (ASACO) and town halls to provide a budget line to motivate Relais.

### **Gender and inclusion**

- Strengthen women's participation in household decision-making, in this case in relation to food distribution, and strengthen their resource mobilisation and management skills for financial empowerment;
- Ensure that vulnerable people (children, breastfeeding women and nursing mothers, the elderly) are given priority in food consumption.

### **Water, Hygiene and Sanitation**

- Strengthen mechanisms for managing or maintaining facilities in a functional state by increasing the commitment of communities to pay drinking water charges; this encourages repairs in case of breakdown;
- Reduce water costs/prices by adopting sustainable and renewable energy systems;
- Continue and/or intensify awareness-raising activities on the adoption of hygiene and sanitation practices, including in local development plans (commune and village).

## **9. RIGHT TO GROW'S INTERVENTION LOGIC**

### **THE FOUR EXPECTED BENEFITS OF R2G IN MALI**

The intervention of the Right to Grow programme in Mali is dedicated to the emergence of citizens who use their rights and the dialogue with actors to obtain changes in social behaviour and policies through multiple coordinated actions with a

close link between the communal and national level. These women, men, young people and people living with disabilities will be organised into analysis and pressure groups. The programme has a continuous and integrated focus on gender through the empowerment of women in communal activities and decision-making, including the analysis of communal and national budgets. After capacity building of CBO citizen groups, they regularly dialogue with their local and national decision makers based on evidence collected in their villages; and information provided by NGOs/CSOs on the situation of WASH, availability of hygiene and nutrition products for children under 5 years of age at the local private sector level, food security and nutrition including their link with COVID 19, gender and climate change. Campaigns will raise awareness on the role of the private sector, climate change and COVID 19 in order to have responsible and engaged citizens. The whole process will be facilitated by national NGOs/CSOs who also have the role of providing these lobby groups with national programmatic information related to the regions of intervention. National NGOs/CSOs will use the local evidence for national level advocacy and discussions with donors especially on the need for multi-sectoral investments. The programme will take advantage of peer-to-peer learning frameworks to enhance good practice and help all stakeholders move forward together in the search for change. In this process, media organisations will be strengthened, motivated and involved in order to make the most of their capacity to influence behaviour and decisions.

The expected changes revolve around:

CBO and civil society capacity to act: CBOs initiate their own initiatives to influence local planning and get their proposals reflected in the local budget and spending on WASH, nutrition, climate change and gender.

Partnership: In terms of partnership, CBOs, the local private sector and the media regularly consult and cooperate to ensure the continued availability and consumption of WASH products, including menstrual hygiene and nutrition.

Policy: At the policy and programme level, with the support of CBOs, mayors are increasing their spending on WASH and nutrition through increased endogenous resources and a growing transfer from central government and donors based on their economic, social and cultural development programmes (ESDP). These communal programmes are consistent with national WASH, nutrition, gender and climate change policies.

Accountability: From the point of view of accountability, central government and local decision-makers are systematically accountable for their management by regularly organising communal accountability frameworks and by participating in international experience-sharing frameworks such as SWA, AfricaSan and SUN. In view of these

accountability frameworks, the authorities take into account the concerns and achievements of civil society organisations, particularly women's organisations working on WASH, nutrition and food security

The programme's intervention starts with **the organisation of communities into analysis and pressure groups**. This support to their organisation will enable them to **dialogue with their local decision-makers** thanks also to a series of **training sessions on human rights** and citizen control techniques. **Field trips to collect data** in health centres and water points as well as in households will provide the advocacy groups with **evidence that** will be consolidated in a **communal WASH monitoring report**, availability of hygiene and nutrition products for children under 5 years of age at the local private sector level, food security and nutrition including their link with COVID 19, gender, climate change. Climate change is at the heart of the programme both in the analyses and in the awareness raising of the actors through the planned communication campaigns. This citizen monitoring report will be validated by the community and presented to decision-makers. This whole process will be supervised by the national NGOs/CSOs who also have the role of providing these pressure groups with national programmatic information in relation to the intervention regions. National NGOs/CSOs will use the local evidence for national-level advocacy and discussions with donors, especially on the need for multi-sectoral investments. Over time, NGOs/CSOs will occupy as many existing national accountability frameworks as possible and involve community representatives in these frameworks. The more the programme evolves over time, the more pressure groups will be empowered to choose activities and make decisions about how to sustainably influence communities. The programme will take advantage of peer-to-peer learning frameworks to enhance good practice and help everyone move forward together in the search for change. In this process, media organisations will be strengthened, motivated and involved in order to make the most of their capacity to influence behaviour and decisions. Finally, the programme places a continuous and integrated emphasis on gender through, among other things, the empowerment of women in activities and the inclusion of gender issues in the analysis of communal and national budgets.

The Right to Grow programme in Mali will be activated through multiple coordinated actions with a close link between the communal and national levels. Below are the main actions by outcome:

***Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and EHA practices, addressing barriers jointly with private sector partners (Outcome I)***

Using the tools of the rights-based approach, sessions will enable communities in all the intervention communes to become more aware of their rights to drinking water and sanitation as well as to adequate food and nutrition for all. They will also be

reminded of their duties as citizens, with reference to the texts in force. This will enable these communities to become actively involved in awareness-raising events/campaigns and to defend their rights themselves.

In addition, awareness and information campaigns will be undertaken to ensure the adoption of good hygiene and nutritional practices. These campaigns will take the form of youth caravans, radio programmes, web TV programmes, online campaigns on social networks (Tweeter, Facebook, WhatsApp, web TV) to carry the messages far and wide and to reach certain youth actors and decision makers.

Marketing capacity support will be initiated to foster linkages with the national and small-scale private sector (e.g. local vendors, farmers and small producers), which should help improve the availability of relevant products and services.

***Representative and empowered civil society organisations (CSOs) effectively navigate nutrition and EHA at the grassroots to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition (Outcome II).***

A capacity building plan, particularly on gender, climate change, the rights to nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation for communities, CSOs, the media and decision makers. Tools will be developed for this purpose. Work on the capacity building needs of CSOs will be carried out in order to strengthen these communal pressure groups in policy analysis techniques and public budget documents.

A gender action plan will be developed to reduce the underlying barriers and power differentials that prevent rural women and marginalised groups from leading advocacy efforts. In light of this gender situation, the Right2Grow Programme will undertake the following actions:

- Gender analysis in the programme intervention areas
- CSO training on gender and gender mainstreaming
- Training of women CBO members on women's leadership
- Training of CBOs on gender and gender mainstreaming
- Gender specification in data collection tools during citizen monitoring including budgeting
- Membership of Consortium members and implementing NGOs in the National Platform for Menstrual Hygiene Promotion (PNP-GHM) and contribution to its action plan. This platform was initially initiated by WaterAid and Unicef. Some CSOs implementing the Right2Grow programme are also founding members (CN-CIEPA, AJCAD)
- Participation/contribution to the WFD GHM Celebration to call on decision makers to take into account GHM in gender, education, health, sanitation and hygiene policies/programmes.

- A citizen monitoring system will be set up in each commune, with community pressure groups at its heart, to progressively analyse commune budgetary forecasts and expenditure. In the composition of the pressure groups and the overall intervention, women will be at the forefront; this will facilitate their direct representation in all consultation processes and their direct access to decision making.
- Tools will be prepared for data collection on budget allocations, actual expenditures, quality of WASH and nutrition service delivery. Financial data will be collected annually for both nutrition and WASH. These data collections will be followed by citizen analyses. These analyses will enable policy dialogues to be held each year at the communal, regional and national levels. CEGAA's support is strongly expected in this regard.

We will work to strengthen the involvement of the two networks of journalists on nutrition and WASH in the good communication sought. The media will be accompanied to initiate activities themselves in support of what CSOs and communities are doing. These networks will have a work plan that the programme will support.

Civil society organisations and local community-based organisations will then be strengthened in advocacy techniques and advocacy action plans and campaigns will be developed to enable them to effectively and progressively measure government progress and expenditure.

Right to Grow will conduct situational analyses, including gender analyses at the regional level. At the end of these analyses, specific actions will be defined to revise the programme's activities.

Mali is implementing the TrackFin initiative in the water and sanitation sector. Right to Grow partners will contribute to this process in Mali.

***National government and decentralised entities adopt and integrate an integrated and multisectoral approach to undernutrition into policies, action plans and budget allocations (Outcome III)***

Right to Grow will organise sharing sessions and discussions on different public policies as well as national, including electoral and international commitments.

Analyses of laws (e.g. budget), policies and programmes, and plans (including communal development plans and local budgets) will be carried out.

Right to Grow will promote inclusive and innovative approaches and technologies in WASH, Nutrition, Coordination

Through learning days, symposia and knowledge fairs, partners will take ownership of research findings and analysis to develop evidence-based positions and messages that will enable the development of technical support tools for government. Where appropriate, we will contribute financially to research and dissemination of research results.

The private sector will be engaged in the advocacy process to help remove bottlenecks related to institutional arrangements and thus facilitate its contribution to the fight against undernutrition.

***Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate within the Humanitarian-Development Nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernourishment (Outcome IV)***

In order to influence national decision-makers to implement commitments, make new decisions and scale up, advocacy notes will be developed and sent/explained to national elected officials (MPs), sectoral ministers, directors general and national directors. RightGrow2 will contribute technically and financially to national sectoral and multi-sectoral WASH and nutrition policy frameworks.

The Programme will provide knowledge and capacity building on climate change and contribute to the development of natural disaster response plans in the intervention areas. It will disseminate good practices of resilience to climate change.

RightGrow2 partners will meet with donors on a regular basis, including through partner thematic group sessions on WASH and nutrition.

We will work with the Mali SWA Committee to strengthen the process of dialogue on WASH financing and the holding of the national WASH consultation, the memorandum of which is signed by the government and the leader of the WASH TFPs.

In terms of mutual accountability, synergy will be undertaken with the national SWA committee to define common Nutrition commitments associated with the existing WASH commitments. The first level for this mechanism will be regional to bring each of the stakeholder groups (NGOs, CBOs, local private sector, local media, local authorities, ASACOs/Health Centres, etc.) to make voluntary commitments that can be achieved in 4 years including the acceptance of an annual evaluation. At the central level, in addition to the same categories of actors at the regional level, there will be commitments from the TFPs involved in nutrition and the ministries in charge of nutrition and food security.

The two platforms SUN and SWA will set up a joint work plan. At the regional level, rightgrow2 will ensure that all categories of municipal actors are involved in the municipal and regional budget process.

ACF and WVI policies on personal data protection will be applied. NGOs/CSOs will be trained on the management and protection of personal data and cybercrime. Consent forms will be made available to them and used during individual interviews during surveys, case studies, film making, short videos, before their dissemination including on social networks.

**Mali's theory of change is consistent with that of the global level. This theory of change, however, takes the media directly into account.**

Outcomes	Intermediate Outcomes	Results
I. Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and WASH practices, addressing barriers jointly with private sector partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities are aware of the small actions that can be taken and put them into practice</li> <li>• Communities have access to affordable nutrition and EHA services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSOs effectively mobilise communities around improved nutrition and EHA and sensitise them to adopt anti-Covid-19 measures</li> <li>• The private sector develops innovative business models, services and products</li> </ul>
II. Representative and empowered civil society organisations (CSOs) are effective in nutrition and EHA advocacy for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based organisations (CBOs), CSOs and the media regularly collaborate with local authorities on programming and financial planning</li> <li>• CBOs, CSOs and the media have the legitimacy and capacity to voice the concerns of the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBOs, CSOs and the media have the technical skills to monitor, analyse and report on allocations and expenditures as well as policy and strategy on WASH, nutrition and food security</li> <li>• FBOs and CSOs broaden their scope to include the interests of the most vulnerable</li> </ul>

	marginalised and deprived.	
III. National government, parliamentarians and decentralised entities adopt and integrate an integrated and multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition into policies, action plans and budget allocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learned from implementation pathways and gaps inform policy and legislative development</li> <li>• Coordination mechanisms between government and civil society, as well as between different sectors (WASH - nutrition - food security) contribute to the effectiveness of WASH and nutrition - health programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities, FBOs and CSOs collect data and experiences on the quality of nutrition and EHA service delivery</li> <li>• Field research generates evidence and innovative ways to prevent undernutrition and poor WASH conditions</li> <li>• CSOs participate in and contribute to dynamic coordination mechanisms between government and civil society, as well as between different sectors (WASH - nutrition - food security - climate change)</li> </ul>
IV. Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate within the Humanitarian-Development Nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernourishment	International actors participate in national and regional cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, share data and engage in joint programming.	R2G partners, CSOs and policy makers engage in platforms for data sharing, peer learning, adoption of good governance practices and advocate together with donors to better align their funding and programming with government priorities and support multi-sectoral approaches to nutrition, such as integration with climate change.

Table 16 Theory of change for the Rigt2Grow project

## 10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 10.1.1. CONCLUSION :

At the end of this study, the analysis of the landscape of barriers to nutrition and EHA (from a gender and inclusion perspective), including a review of relevant policies, showed difficulties in both food availability, knowledge of good feeding practices and availability of EHA services and knowledge of good practices.

The results of this baseline study show that in most localities, climate change/drought factors and low incomes are the main obstacles to food availability. They point to other obstacles that are dependent on the weak capacities of the populations, namely the weakness of livestock production mechanisms which do not favour food availability in

quantity and quality, the high cost of livestock inputs (oil cakes, medicines, vitamins and antibiotics), price regulation mechanisms are not functional, cereal banks are not fully operational (inadequate supply, loss of food due to poor storage conditions), price regulation mechanisms are not functional, and the low knowledge of foods with high nutritional value and the importance of dietary diversity

Malaria stands out as the main health concern and the barriers to accessing health services remain cost and distance to health centres.

In the context of WASH, it is clear that the obstacles are related to the lack of availability/supply of safe water, the high cost of water, poor management of water infrastructure, lack of local technical skills for maintenance and poor knowledge of good hygiene practices (key moments of hand washing with soap, food hygiene etc.).

The characteristics of the study also affected the results. As this was a qualitative study, it only involved a small part of the population. This sample may not contain all the characteristics of the mother population. Other difficulties were identified during the process:

- The refusal of some of the targeted persons to answer the questions;
- Appointments were postponed or cancelled due to the lack of availability of technical services in the Kayes, Sikasso and Koulikoro areas.

When collecting the information, it was found that :

- Data entry problems: some data are not complete;
- Problems with the translation of the interviewees' answers: a lot of repetition even when the questions are not the same;
- Concerns about the diversity of responses during focus groups: some interviewees tend to line up last the first one who speaks.

The interviewees (technical services, communities, women's and men's groups, tradithérapeutes, GSAN, cooperatives, mayors and local councillors) proposed the following recommendations

- Conduct reforestation and awareness campaigns on good food and washing practices for the entire population;
- Promote the consumption of local products, support producers in the development of the sector (train farmers in modern techniques, provide them with agricultural equipment, inputs and improved seeds, facilitate access to animal vaccination, support producers in the packaging and sale of products, build/refurbish watering points, raise awareness and train producers on breeding techniques, local production of enriched food);
- Supporting civil society in specialising in nutrition and wash issues and in fundraising;

- Involve mayors and communal councils in awareness-raising activities, training of local technicians for the repair/maintenance of water points, capacity building of water point management committees (partnership, budget advocacy and organisation) and of the GSAN.

The results of the October 2021 Right2Grow project learning capacity assessment concluded that the team already has an appetite for and understanding of learning and sharing and its added value. It focused on strengthening processes, spaces and tools to formalise/systematise learning and sharing at the level of the constituent organisations and the wider consortium; but also on creating a community of learners, implementing adaptive management and better capitalisation of community knowledge.

The study identified common needs among consortium members in terms of: 1) Developing a clear and effective communication and/or advocacy strategy to accelerate progress towards organisational goals (54%); Resource mobilisation, including the development of financial resource mobilisation strategy and plans (50%); and Strengthening relationships with different media channels to disseminate communication and advocacy messages (46%). It also identified specific needs in terms of reviewing and developing recommendations for policy improvements, identifying and promoting innovative approaches with community organisations and research institutes, international advocacy, relevant M&E tools, etc. E tools including CSO advocacy capacity, tools to measure the degree of social accountability, the level of involvement of women and youth, understanding/use of methods following stories of change, markers of progress, most significant changes, collaboration with private sector partners, budget tracking and expenditure tracking, design and conduct of campaigns through the media (mainstream, social etc.).

### 10.1.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the Right2Grow project's advocacy work, it should

- Strengthen awareness of essential nutritional practices among health care providers at the level of nutrition centres and in the community in all districts;
- Focus on the acquisition of birth certificates by all households;
- Strengthen community mobilisation and involvement around the issue of malnutrition in all districts;
- Increase the number of home visits for health care providers to ensure that they understand the benefits of early and exclusive breastfeeding initiation, as health care providers cannot distinguish between the two in all districts;

- Strengthen the mobilisation and capacity of community relays so that they better follow up on exclusive breastfeeding in all districts, especially in the district of Yorosso;
- Strengthen the mobilization and capacity of GSAN groups;
- Create income-generating activities for women so that they can provide diversified food for their children;
- Raise awareness among caregivers about the main food groups needed to feed a child over 6 months of age;
- Strengthen CSOs in formulating and conducting budgetary and technical advocacy at the communal, local and national levels;
- Organise local consultation actions on the institutional framework of decentralisation;
- Strengthen the partnership between the SUN and SWA movements in Mali through joint advocacy action plans for a better integration of WASH in the NUT;
- Increase monitoring of Mali's international commitments to nutrition and WASH;
- Involve young people and women strongly in the implementation of the programme, particularly at the communal level, but also in the governance of the programme;
- Involve mayors and technical services strongly in project activities.

As part of the review of the project indicators, the following should be done

- Reword the indicator "Proportion of people from vulnerable or marginalised groups (women, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups...) involved in actions to make demands for improvement (WASH and nutrition)" to "proportion of people from vulnerable or marginalised groups participating in accountability spaces". This could be a first step. For the time being, this section of the population is not involved in activities at all;
- Rephrase the indicator "Number of times CSOs have managed to create space for their demands and positions by setting the agenda, influencing the debate and/or creating space for engagement" to "Number of times CSOs meet in a space to pool their needs for improvement in order to share it with local authorities". For in the first instance, the objective could be the establishment of a functional framework that can then drive advocacy.
- Reformulate the indicator "Percentage of public budgets allocated and implemented for nutrition and WASH services (increased funding)" into "visibility of nutrition and WASH expenditure at the communal level". In this context, tools and training will be made available to communities/municipalities. The GSB team could lead this action.

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# Assessment of skills and learning Report

<< Mali >>  
October, 2021.

# Acknowledgements

The Global Capacity Building and Learning & Sharing teams would like to express their gratitude and thank all those who supported and participated in the process of collecting data on capacity and learning in their countries. The time and effort you put into disseminating the questionnaires, following up with your national partners and colleagues, and providing input is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all of you, we have completed the capacity and learning assessment and collected :

- 180 responses to the questionnaire on technical knowledge and learning
- 82 responses to the organisational development questionnaire

All this data will help us to better understand the capacity and learning gaps and needs in the programme countries, as well as what expertise we, as the Right2Grow Consortium, can provide. Based on this data, we will jointly develop country-specific mutual capacity development and learning strategies to achieve the objectives of the Right2Grow programme.

Special thanks to Remco Geervliet of the Max Foundation for his support in setting up a system for data analysis. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you all!

Jovana, Jan, Anat and Stephanie

## How to read the results?

In this report, we present the results of the analysis we conducted. The objectives of the data analysis were to

- Understand capacity and learning gaps and needs a) at country level b) at Global Consortium level.
- Identify potential providers of expertise that can meet the needs within the Right2Grow Consortium.

- Inform country prioritisation workshops and support the development of country-specific mutual capacity building and learning strategies.
- Provide a benchmark for monitoring progress in capacity building and learning over time.

The report is based on the four key areas on which we collected data, namely

- A. Technical knowledge and skills related to the four outcomes of the Right2Grow programme
- B. Knowledge and skills in monitoring and evaluation (M&E)
- C. Learning and sharing
- D. Organisational development

For each of these areas, we present an overview of the responses received at country level, including all the national Consortium partners who participated. To help you make sense of the results, the report highlights what was identified as :

- Low and high training/capacity development needs in the country
- The experience and expertise that the Right2Grow Consortium partners can provide
- The most emerging strengths and training needs in monitoring and evaluation
- Overview with the five most important agreements and disagreements in the apprenticeship survey
- Common organisational development needs that could be addressed by the Right2Grow programme

## Data analysis

All data collected was cleaned to ensure consistency in the names of the organisations (e.g. World Vision, WV, World Vision-Ethiopia, W. Vision = World Vision). Then an analysis table was designed to filter and review the results. The global MCD team used this analysis table and the qualitative responses provided to analyse the results and present them in this report. For the first part of the assessment, the technical knowledge and skills questionnaire, the team made the following additional calculations to present the key points of the results:

- **Lowest need for capacity building:** This is the sum of the responses to the questionnaire, marked in green in the charts presented. These responses indicate a low need for training/capacity building or the fact that partners have a wealth of expertise on a given topic.
- **Highest capacity building need:** This includes the sum of all survey responses, marked in red in the graphs presented. They indicate moderate and high needs for training/capacity building on a given topic.
- **Average capacity building need by knowledge area:** This is the sum of all responses to the moderate and high training needs marked in red in a graph for a given knowledge area (e.g. WASH and nutrition basics), then divided by the total number of response options per knowledge area.
- **Average capacity building need per Theory of Change outcome:** This need is calculated as the sum of all the averages per knowledge area under an outcome, then divided by the total number of knowledge areas for that outcome.

## Use of these results

These findings should be seen as a starting point for the development of country-specific capacity development and learning strategies. They should also guide discussions at the prioritisation workshops (part of the detailed 2022 planning process) on identifying key capacity development and learning priorities that need to be addressed in order to achieve the objectives of the Right2Grow programme and ensure sustainability beyond Right2Grow.

# Executive summary

## A. Results of the assessment of skills and learning

On the following pages you will find the detailed report. The table below shows the lowest and highest needs for technical knowledge and skills development. The capacity building needs are grouped according to the four outcomes of the Right2Grow programme.

Results of Right2Grow programme	Knowledge area where the need for capacity building is greatest	Knowledge area with the lowest need for capacity building
<b>Result 1:</b> Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners.	Working with community-based private sector partners (59%)	Mobilisation and engagement of the community, while ensuring significant participation of women and youth (31.5%)
<b>Result 2:</b> Representative and empowered civil society organisations (CSOs) are effectively navigating the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition and poor WASH conditions.	Budget monitoring and expenditure tracking (54%)	Designing context-specific, evidence-based advocacy strategies (23%)
<b>Result 3:</b> The national government and decentralised entities adopt and integrate an integrated and multi-sectoral approach to undernutrition into policies, action plans and budget allocations.	Review of existing legislation (60%)	Understand the basic principles of the WASH-nutrition nexus and the multi-sectoral approach to nutrition (41%)
<b>Result 4:</b> Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition	Lobby donors for better funding for nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene, and for multi-sectoral programming (45.5%)	Call for more action on the Sustainable Development Goals (36%)

Looking at the average needs expressed by outcome, the data suggests that the greatest capacity building efforts should be invested in **Outcome 3** (53%), followed by **Outcome 1** (46%), and **Outcome 4** (39%) and **Outcome 2** (35%). These elements should be discussed and validated in the prioritisation workshops as part of the strategic thinking and detailed planning processes.

## B. The most emerging M&E strengths and training needs

### Capacity building priorities for 2022 :

1. Identify information needs for cross-cutting themes (gender, inclusion, disability)
2. Integrating child protection measures into M&E tools and protocols
3. M&E tools to measure women and youth involvement

### Capacity building priorities for 2023 :

1. Methodology on the most significant change
2. Degree of social accountability
3. History of change

## C. On the results of the survey on learning and sharing

This survey sought to address the issue of learning and sharing at three levels:

- At the individual level: the respondent's individual professional learning practices
- Organisational level: the learning and sharing practices of the organisation to which the respondent belongs
- At the Right2Grow consortium level: the respondent's personal expectations regarding Learning and Sharing in Right2Grow

Learning and Sharing in Right2Grow is like a mode of collaboration and exchange that encompasses all three levels by creating a learning culture in the Right2Grow consortium that engages both structures and individuals.

**At the individual level**, 100% of respondents are aware of the importance of learning for progress and impact and 100% of respondents make time for learning and sharing in their diaries and carry out learning activities. Respondents appear to have feedback mechanisms in place. For example, 88% of individuals regularly do reflective exercises to learn from their past practices and 100% of respondents use lessons learned to adapt their practices.

**At the level of organisations:** However, when it comes to the organisations in which respondents work, the % decreases (although it still remains at high levels). Only 84% (vs. 100% at the individual level) find that they have time for learning and sharing in their team and 85% consider that they have a formalised process for collecting learning and sharing good practice within their organisation.

**At Right2Grow level:** clear and widely shared expectations of the R2G consortium:

-100% of respondents want to see a system in place to share good reviews within the consortium

-100% want to strengthen the capitalisation and sharing of community knowledge

-100% of respondents want to be supported to better use the lessons learned in adaptive management

In conclusion, as individuals, the Mali teams already have an appetite for and understanding of learning and sharing and its added value. The focus should be on strengthening the processes, spaces and tools for formalising/systematising learning and sharing at the level of the constituent organisations and the wider consortium. Emphasis will also be placed on the creation of a community of learners, on the implementation of adaptive management and better capitalisation of community knowledge. These elements will be discussed and validated during the strategic reflection and detailed planning workshops with all partners.

#### **D. Common organisational development needs that could be addressed by the Right2Grow programme**

The three emerging organizational development priorities for Right2Grow Mali are

1. Development of a clear and effective communication and/or advocacy strategy to accelerate progress towards organisational goals (54%)
2. Resource mobilisation, including the development of financial resource mobilisation strategy and plans (50%)
3. Strengthening relationships with different media channels to disseminate communication and advocacy messages (46%)

# A. Results of the assessment of technical knowledge and skills

In this questionnaire we collected information on the technical knowledge and skills needed to achieve four outcomes of the Right2Grow programme. Here are the results.

## 1. Overview of responses received by Right2Grow consortium partners in Mali :

Organization	Number of responses
ACF	5
AJCAD	1
AMADECOM	1
CDMA	1
CNCIEPA	2
GSB	2
OMAES	3
STOP-SAHEL	1
World Vision	7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>23</b>

## 2. Overview of responses by item

Number of responses

Facilitation of activities / Community mobilisation and coordination	5
Communication and/or advocacy	4
Coordinator	1
Finance and Administration	2
Programme management	5

## 2. Overview of responses by item

Number of responses

Item	Number of responses
Facilitation of reporting, according to the lessor's rules	1
Local training and advocacy	1
Technical expert in nutrition/health/water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)/food security or similar.	2
General Management	2

### Reflection:

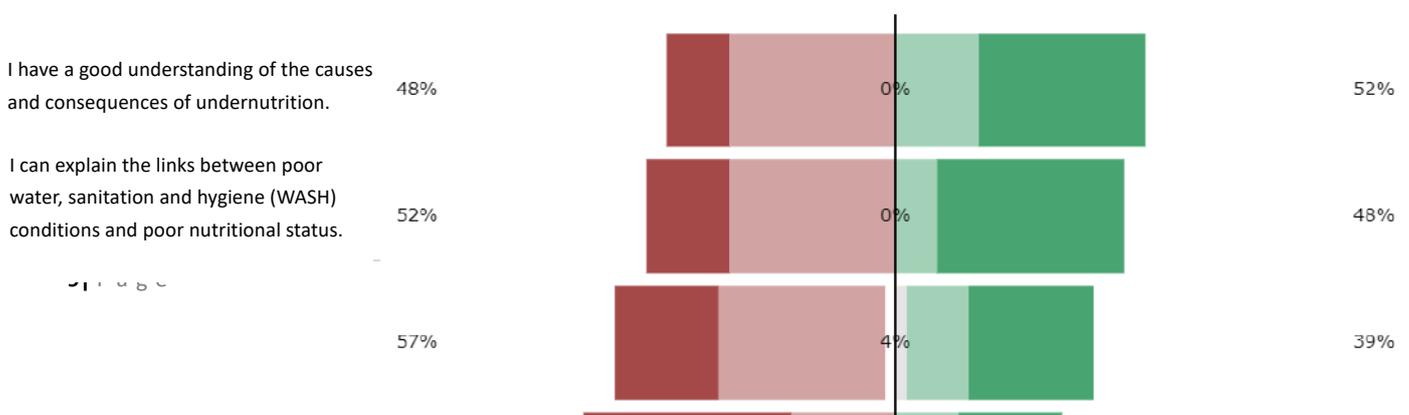
All Right2Grow programme partners in Mali participated in the evaluation, however, participation is uneven among organisations, which could be due to the different size of organisations or different rates of engagement in the evaluation among partners. Partners working in different positions and bringing different expertise, e.g. advocacy, community mobilisation, programme management, responded to the survey, which provides a good basis for understanding the different needs and gaps in capacity and knowledge in Mali.

However, differences in the number of responses per position must be taken into account: the majority of respondents worked in the area of activity facilitation/community mobilisation and coordination (5) as well as in the area of programme management (5), followed by advocacy/communication (4).

### 3. The following is an overview of the results related to the six knowledge areas of **outcome 1**:

**"Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners."**

#### Domaine de connaissance 1 : Les bases de la WASH et Nutrition

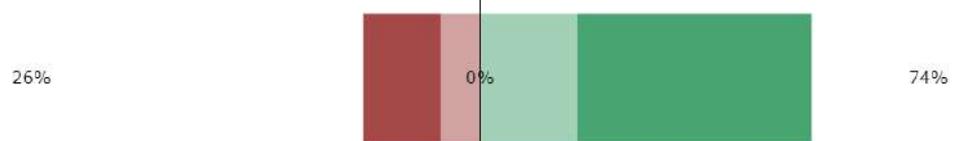


I know the different types of undernutrition.

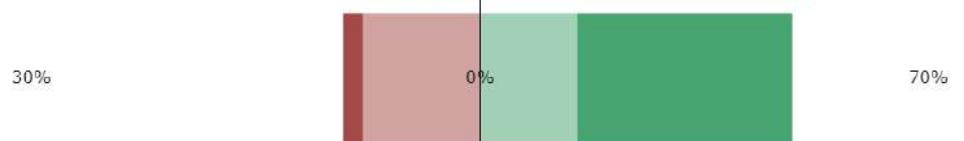
I am familiar with the main approaches to WASH - Nutrition programming, such as "1,000 Days" and "BabyWASH".

**Domaine de connaissance 2 : Mobilisation et engagement de la communauté, tout en assurant une participation significative des femmes et des jeunes**

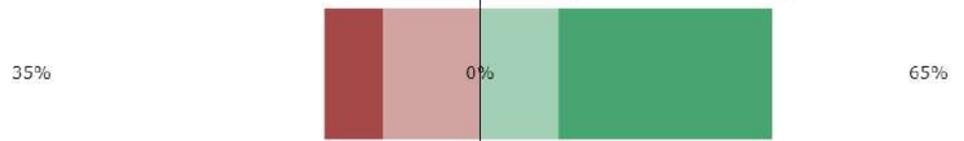
I can name some women and youth-led groups and explain the level of decision-making they have in their communities.



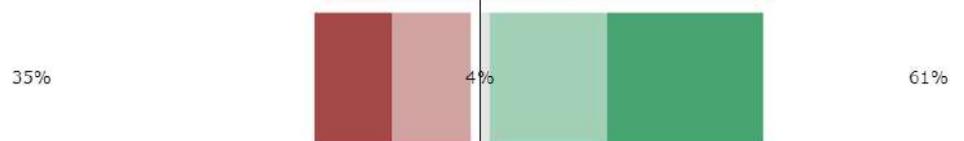
I know the relevant communication channels for community mobilisation that I can use in my work.



I have a good understanding of the affected populations and how they understand community mobilisation activities, including their impact on nutrition and WASH.



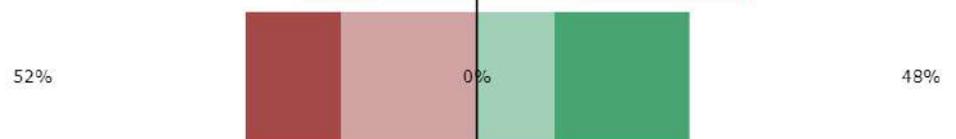
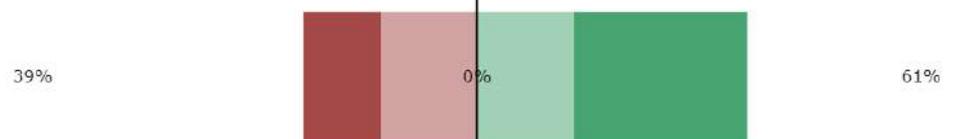
I can explain the main steps in developing a community mobilisation/engagement strategy.



■ Besoin important de formation ■ Besoin modere de formation ■ Je ne sais pas  
■ Faible besoin de formation ■ Can be expertise provider

**Domaine de connaissance 3 : Un développement piloté par la communauté, inclusif et sensible au genre**

I know the mechanisms for ensuring the sustainability of interventions in the community.

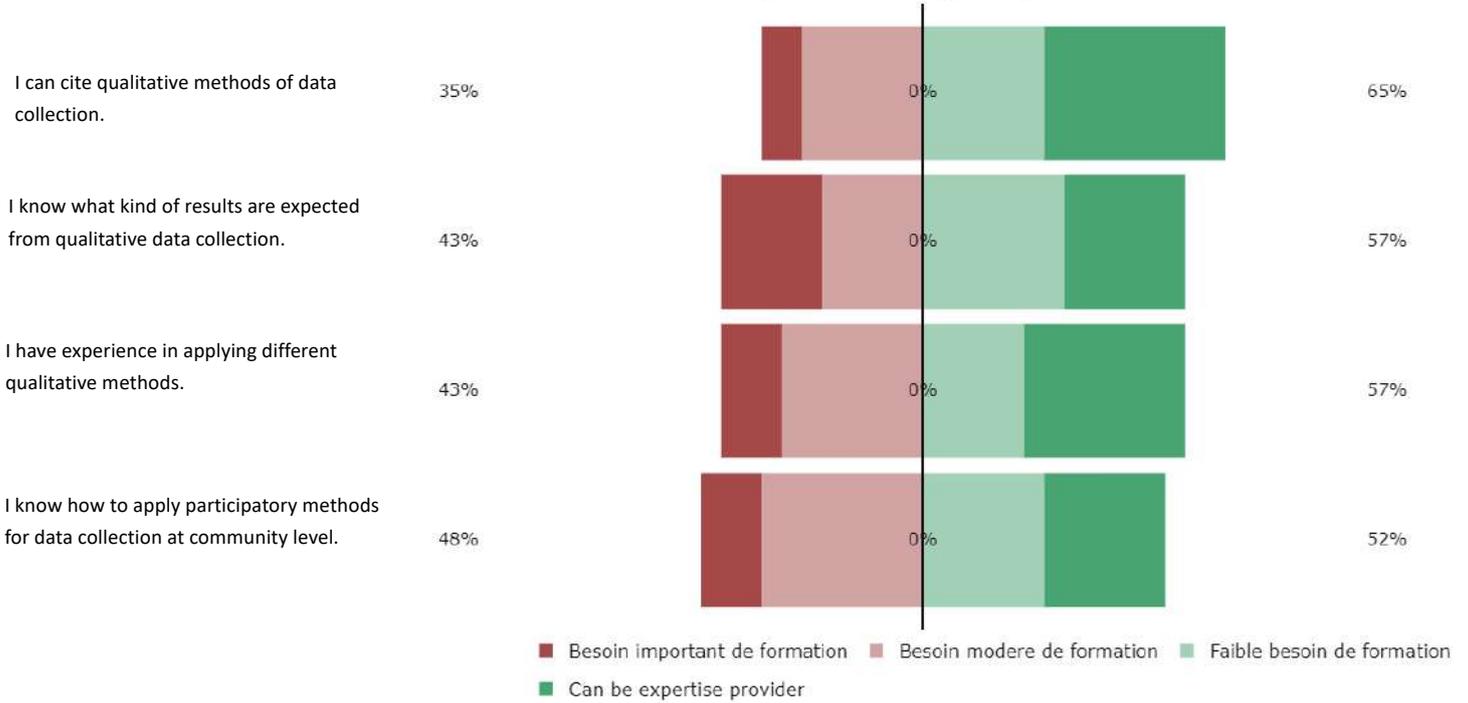


I know ways to promote women leaders and gender-sensitive community leadership.

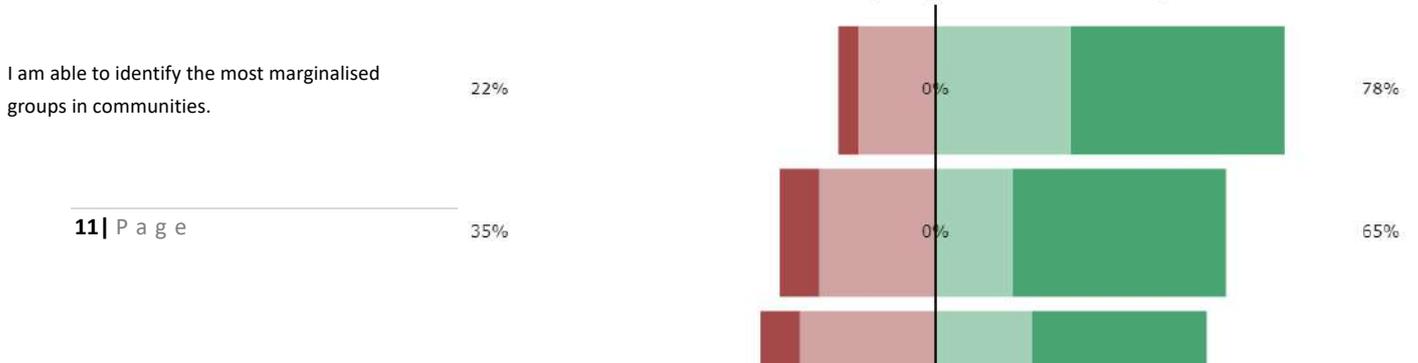
I know how to ensure the participation of women and young people in community engagement strategies and community decision-making.

I can describe the main features of community-led development/community development.

**Domaine de connaissance 4 : Collecte de données qualitatives et participatives**



**Domaine de connaissance 5 : Travailler avec les groupes marginalisés, les femmes et les groupes de femmes, les jeunes**



I am able to reach the most marginalised groups in the communities.

I am familiar with good practice in working with marginalised groups.

I am familiar with gender sensitive programming and inclusion.

**Domaine de connaissance 6 : Travailler avec des partenaires du secteur privé basés dans la communauté**

I know the community-based entrepreneurs/businesses in my area of operation and the WASH/nutrition products and services they provide.

48%

I worked on programmes where community-based private sector partners were involved.

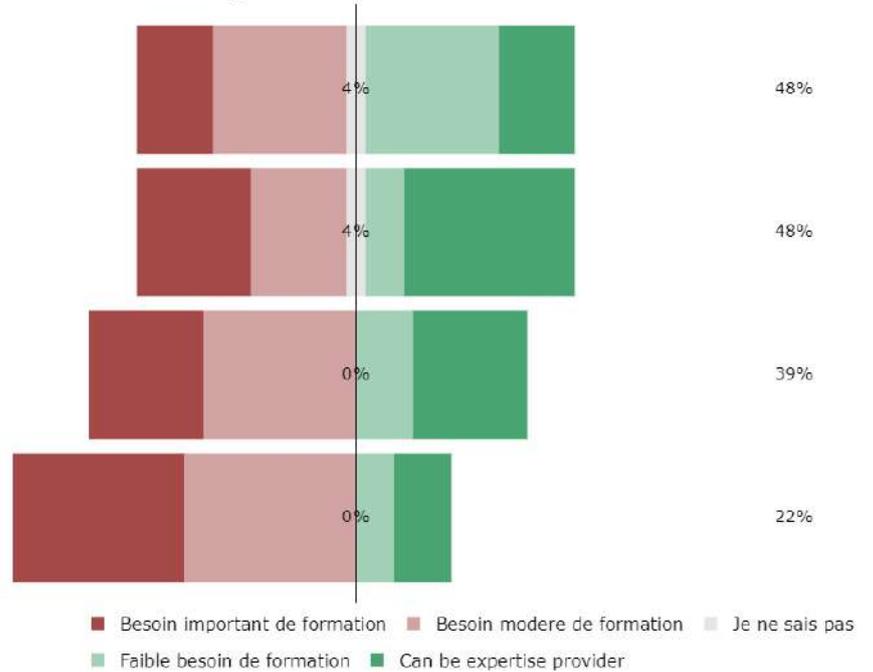
48%

I have experience in facilitating engagement sessions between community and private sector partners.

61%

I am familiar with concepts such as sanitation marketing, social marketing and pro-poor business models.

78%



**Reflection:**

The Right2Grow Mali team has identified several areas of expertise and capacity building needs related to Output 1.

In terms of capacity strengths, the majority of Consortium partners in Mali indicated that they could provide expertise in the areas of community mobilisation and engagement, while ensuring meaningful participation of women and youth, as well as in the area of working with marginalised groups (women, youth), including the ability to identify the most marginalised groups in communities and how to reach them. So there is little need for capacity building in these areas. About half of the respondents are confident in their skills and expertise in community-driven, inclusive and gender-sensitive development, and quantitative and participatory data collection. The greatest need for capacity building was expressed in the area of working with community-based private sector partners, followed by WASH and undernutrition.

In the table below, you can see the lowest (column 2) and highest (column 3) training/capacity building needs per knowledge area, as well as potential providers of expertise from your country and the Consortium (column 4). Column 1 shows the average needs per knowledge area. For ease of understanding and comparison, the average needs by knowledge area are ranked from top to bottom and may not follow the order of knowledge areas as presented in the graphs above.

3.7 The following are highlights of the assessment of technical knowledge and skills related to Outcome 1:

Average needs by knowledge area	Lowest training need (% of responses)	Highest training need (% of responses)	Those who can provide expertise
<b>Knowledge Area 6:</b> Working with community-based private sector partners (59%)	Knowledge of community-based entrepreneurs/enterprises in intervention areas and the WASH/nutrition products and services they provide (48%)	Familiarity with concepts such as sanitation marketing, social marketing and pro-poor business models (78%)  Experience in facilitating engagement sessions between community and private sector partners (61%)	ACF, AJCAD, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge area 1:</b> Basic WASH and nutrition (55.5%)	Understanding the causes and consequences of undernutrition (52%)	Knowledge of key WASH - Nutrition programming approaches, such as "1,000 Days" and "BabyWASH" (65%)	ACF, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge area 3:</b> Community-led development that is inclusive and gender-sensitive (49%)	Knowledge of mechanisms to ensure sustainability of interventions in the community (61%)	Knowledge of how to promote women leaders and gender-sensitive community leadership (52%)  Knowing how to ensure the participation of women and youth in community	ACF, AJCAD, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision

		engagement strategies and community decision-making (52%)  Be able to describe the main characteristics of community-led development/community development (52%)	
<b>Knowledge Area 4:</b> Qualitative and participatory data collection (42%)	Be able to cite qualitative data collection methods (65%)	Know how to apply participatory methods for data collection at community level (48%)	ACF, AJCAD, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge Area 5:</b> Working with marginalised groups, women and women's groups, youth (38%)	Be able to identify the most marginalised groups in communities (78%)	Gender sensitive and inclusive programming (57%)	ACF, AJCAD, GSB, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge Area 2:</b> Community mobilisation and engagement, while ensuring meaningful participation of women and youth (31.5%)	Be able to name some of the women and youth-led groups and explain the level of decision-making they have in their communities (74%)	Key steps in developing a community mobilisation/engagement strategy (35%)	ACF, AJCAD, AMADECOM, GSB, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision

**BOX 1: This is what Right2Grow Burkina Faso partners say about their expertise and needs related to outcome 1:**

Expertizes...

"We have implemented projects/programmes to improve community involvement in the management of their commune and in expressing their needs."

"Trainer on the "Democratic Governance" module (Definition, Principles...) Support to the elaboration of action plans of grassroots Community Organisations (School Management Committees, Wash Committee, Community Health Associations...)

"We have citizen watch groups comprising young people and women where each category of actor ensures its interests. As communication channels, we should note the collaboration with local radio stations, the realization of debates by platforms, the realization of press conferences, the elaboration of a newsletter as well as other supports.

"Advocacy with women's groups SAN behaviour change for nutrition promotion".

**What are the needs in terms of support and capacity building?**

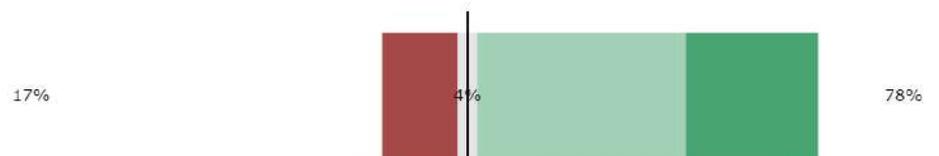
"Training in advocacy, local resource mobilization for food security and WASH"

4. The following is an overview of the results related to the five knowledge areas of **outcome 2**:

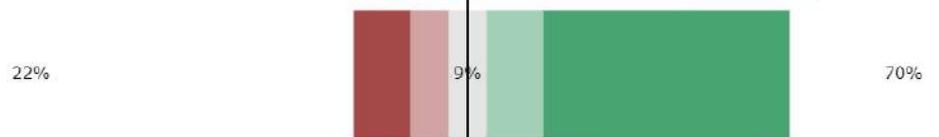
**"Representative and empowered civil society organisations (CSOs) effectively navigate the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition and poor WASH conditions."**

**Domaine de connaissance 1 : Engagement gouvernemental et lobbying**

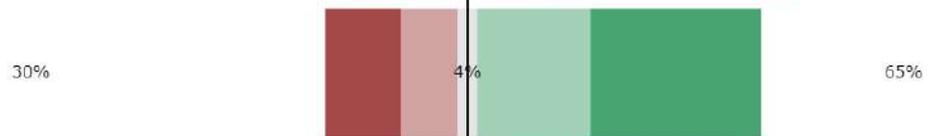
I am familiar with stakeholder mapping and analysis. I can map stakeholder groups and their interests.



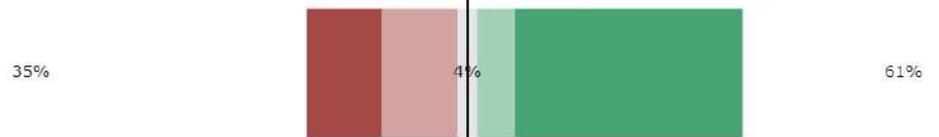
My organisation's positions are taken seriously by the government. We have already provided knowledge or data that the government did not have or influenced government policy and/or budgets.



I can create an ongoing engagement (follow-up meetings) with government actors, e.g. in terms of providing knowledge, data and information.

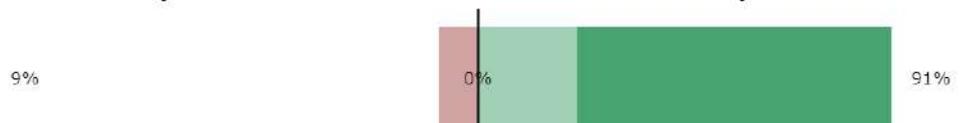


I know how to contact and engage with government actors.



■ Besoin important de formation ■ Besoin modere de formation ■ Je ne sais pas  
 ■ Faible besoin de formation ■ Can be expertise provider

**Domaine de connaissance 2 : Concevoir des stratégies de plaidoyer adaptées au contexte et fondées sur des données probantes**



I believe my organisation has the capacity to undertake, design and implement lobbying and advocacy plans/strategies.

I feel I have a good understanding of the context in which I work.

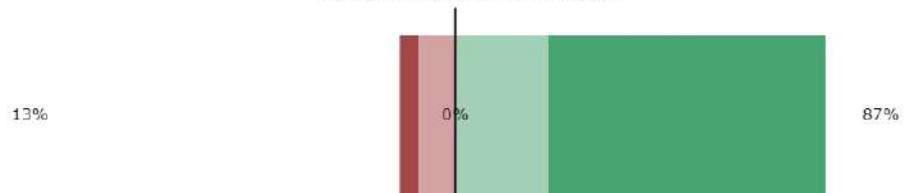
I can mention some of the evidence my organisation has generated to support our lobbying and advocacy work.

I feel I have a good overview of the evidence that I could use to inform advocacy strategies.

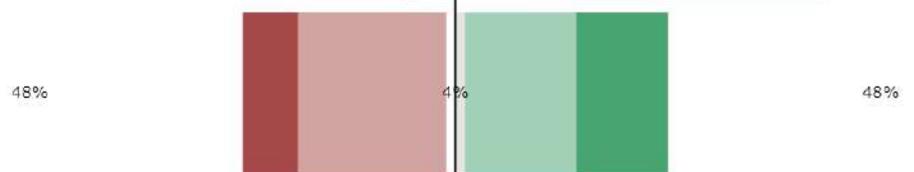
I feel I can translate my understanding of the context into an (effective) advocacy strategy.

### Domaine de connaissance 3 : Communication, campagne et travail avec les médias

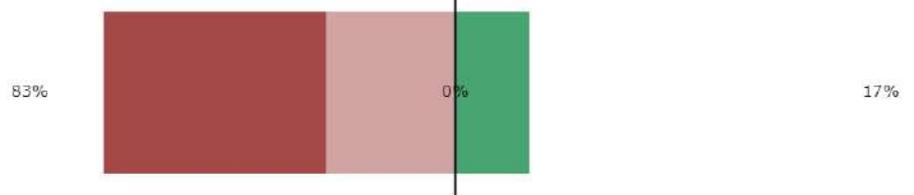
I have ideas about the (positive) role the media could play in successful advocacy strategies.



I would like to explore further the role that the media could play in the campaigning activities I wish to undertake in the future.



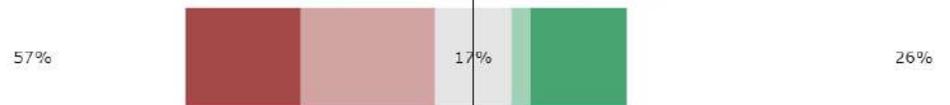
I want to learn more about designing and using communication tools such as social media, lobbying and advocacy materials, canvases and videos.



■ Besoin important de formation ■ Besoin modere de formation ■ Je ne sais pas  
■ Faible besoin de formation ■ Can be expertise provider

### Domaine de connaissance 4 : Suivi budgétaire et suivi des dépenses

I understand my country's budget process (its phases or stages and timing) in which allocations are made, used and reported.



I have been involved in government budget control work in the past.

I know how the budget is formulated, approved, implemented and monitored.

I have been involved in the budget process in my country.

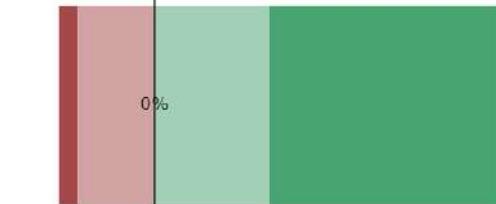
I used budget analysis for evidence generation and advocacy.

I know budget analysis: its terms, techniques and uses.

**Domaine de connaissance 5 : Identifier et inclure les intérêts des plus vulnérables (femmes et groupes marginalisés) dans la communication et le plaidoyer**

The activities/initiatives I work on really reflect the interests and needs of marginalised groups.

22%



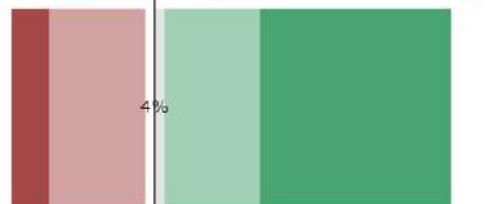
My organisation has put in place mechanisms that can be used to identify the interests and needs of vulnerable groups.

26%



I know how to ensure that vulnerable groups are represented and engaged in communication and advocacy activities on an equal basis with other groups.

30%



■ Besoin important de formation ■ Besoin modere de formation ■ Je ne sais pas  
■ Faible besoin de formation ■ Can be expertise provider

**Reflection:**

Looking at the capacity building and expertise needs related to Outcome 2, it appears that the majority of Right2Grow Mali partners perceive their capacity to engage with government, to design contextually

appropriate and evidence-based advocacy strategies, and to identify and include the interests of the most vulnerable in communication and advocacy as sufficient. Thus, respondents reported little need for capacity building in these areas.

On the other hand, respondents expressed a considerable need for training and capacity building in the areas of budget tracking and expenditure tracking, and communication, campaigning and media work, in particular they want to deepen their knowledge of the design and use of communication tools such as social media, lobbying and advocacy materials, canvases and videos.

It should be noted that at the time of writing, some capacity building needs may have already been addressed, such as budget tracking and expenditure tracking, through the workshops organised by CEGAA in 2021.

In the table below, you can see the lowest (column 2) and highest (column 3) training/capacity building needs by knowledge area, as well as potential providers of expertise from your country and the Consortium (column 4). Column 1 shows the average needs per knowledge area. For ease of understanding and comparison, the average needs by knowledge area are ranked from top to bottom and may not follow the order of knowledge areas as presented in the graphs above.

4.6 The following are highlights of the assessment of technical knowledge and skills related to Outcome 2:

Average needs by knowledge area	Lowest training need (% of responses)	Highest training need (% of responses)	Those who can provide expertise
<b>Knowledge Area 4:</b> Budget monitoring and expenditure tracking (54%)	Understanding of the country's budget process (its phases or stages and timing) in which allocations are made, used and reported (30%)	Budget analysis for evidence generation and advocacy (61%)  Budget analysis: its terms, techniques and uses (61%)	GSB, ACF, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge Area 3:</b> Communication, campaigns and media work (48%)	Familiarity with the (positive) role the media could play in successful advocacy strategies (87%)	Knowledge of designing and using communication tools such as social media, lobbying and advocacy materials, canvases and videos (83%)	ACF, AJCAD, AMADECOM, GSB, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge Area 1 :</b> Government engagement and lobbying (26%)	Stakeholder mapping and analysis; Mapping of stakeholder groups and their interests (78%)	Know how to contact and engage with government actors (35%)	ACF, AMADECOM, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision

<b>Knowledge Area 5 :</b> Identify and include the interests of the most vulnerable (women and marginalised groups) in communication and advocacy (26%)	Reflection of the interests and needs of marginalised groups in activities/initiatives (78%)	Know how to ensure that vulnerable groups are represented and engaged in communication and advocacy activities on an equal basis with other groups (30%)	ACF, AJCAD, GSB, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge Area 2:</b> Designing context-specific, evidence-based advocacy strategies (23%)	Capacity to undertake, design and implement lobbying and advocacy plans/strategies (91%)	Translating the understanding of the context into an effective advocacy strategy (35%)	ACF, AJCAD, AMADECOM, CNCIEPA, OMAES, World Vision

**BOX 2: This is what Right2Grow Burkina Faso partners say about their expertise and needs related to outcome 2:**

Expeertizes...

"Several years of expertise in strengthening governance through the organisation of debates in several municipalities, local citizens' dialogues and the setting up of citizen control platforms.

"Technical skills on government engagement and lobbying."

"Managing civic engagement projects."

**What are the needs in terms of support and capacity building?**

"We need capacity building on the effective involvement of all CSOs."

"Budget process training, advocacy/lobbying training, resource mobilisation training."

"I want to deepen my knowledge in designing and using communication tools such as social media, lobbying and advocacy materials, canvases and videos."

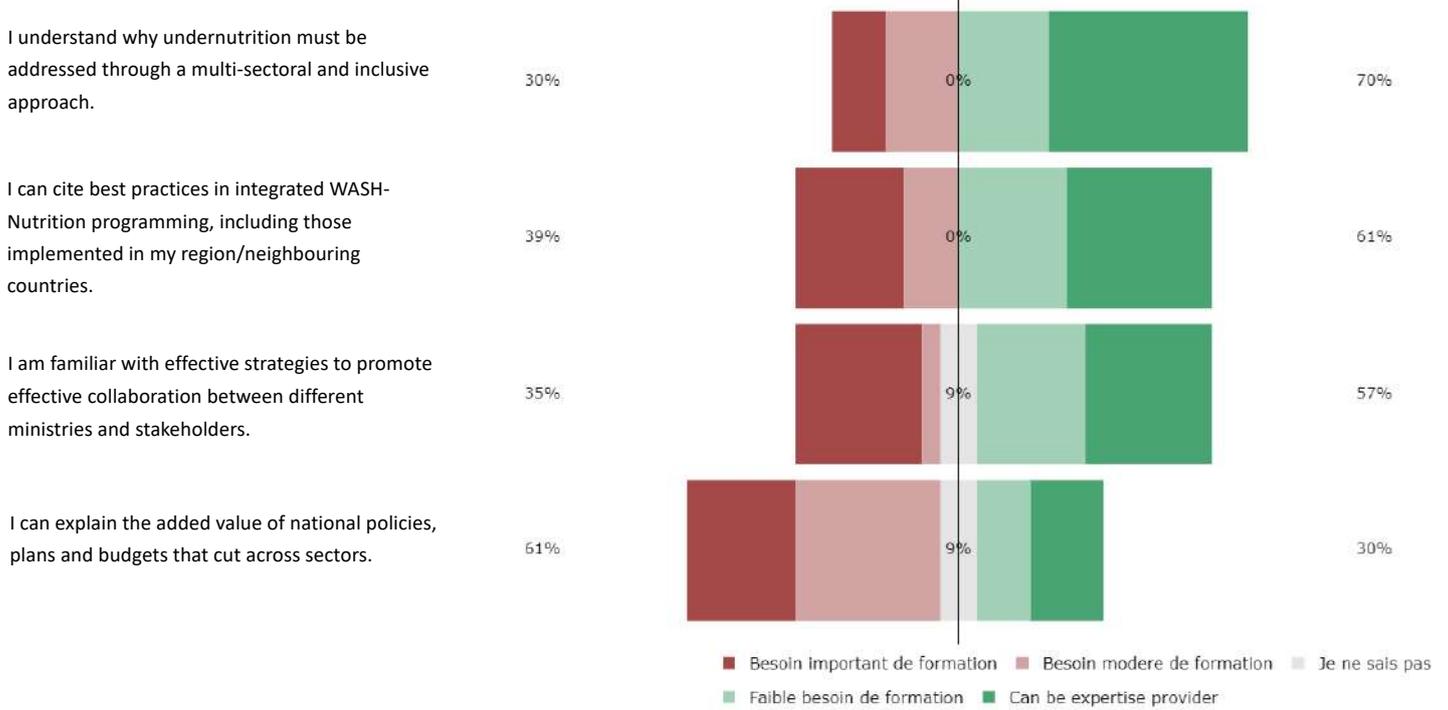
"Analysis of power relations at the local level."

"It would be interesting to understand how the state budget is formulated, approved and executed, but also how to formulate a good advocacy strategy."

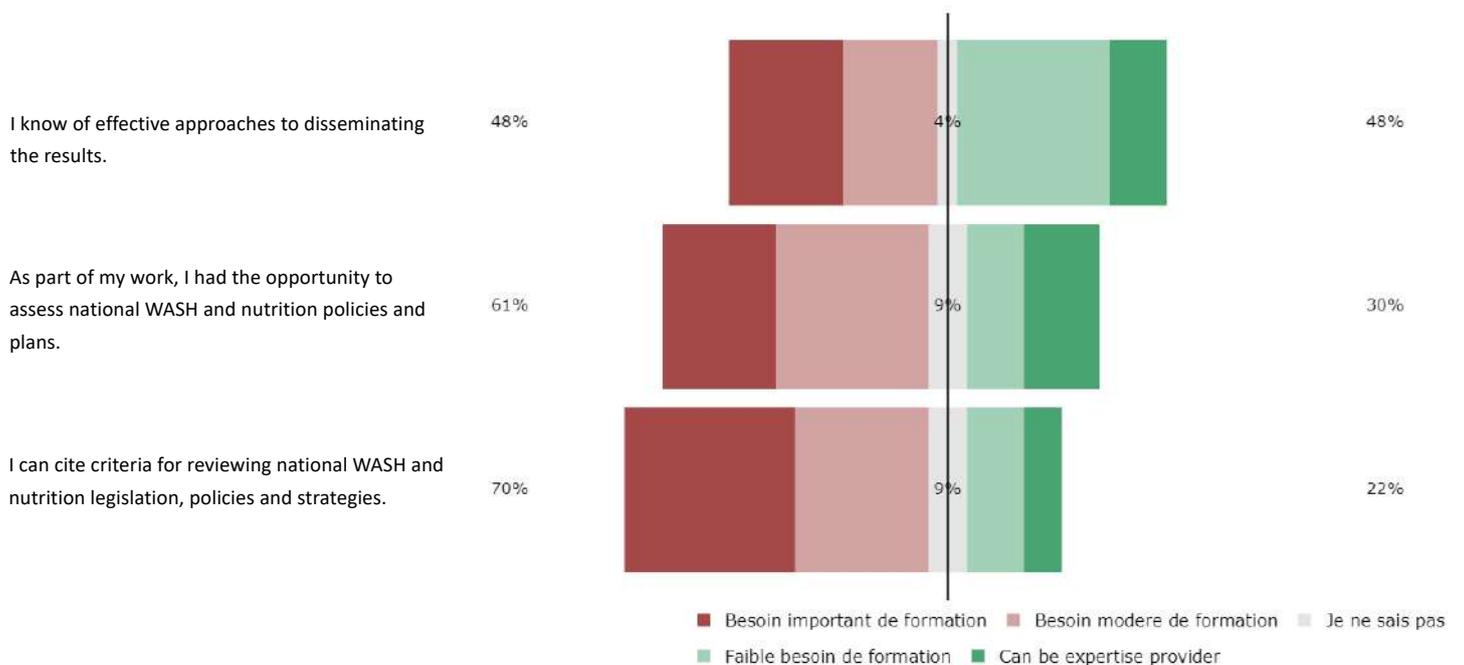
5. The following is an overview of the results related to the four knowledge areas of **outcome 3:**

**"The national government and decentralised entities adopt and integrate an integrated and multisectoral approach to undernutrition into policies, action plans and budget allocations.**

**Domaine de connaissance 1 : Comprendre les principes fondamentaux du lien WASH-Nutrition et de l'approche multisectorielle de la nutrition.**



**Domaine de connaissance 2 : Examen de la législation existante**



**Domaine de connaissance 3 : Augmenter les capacités dans la mise en oeuvre des politiques et formuler des recommandations fondées sur des données**

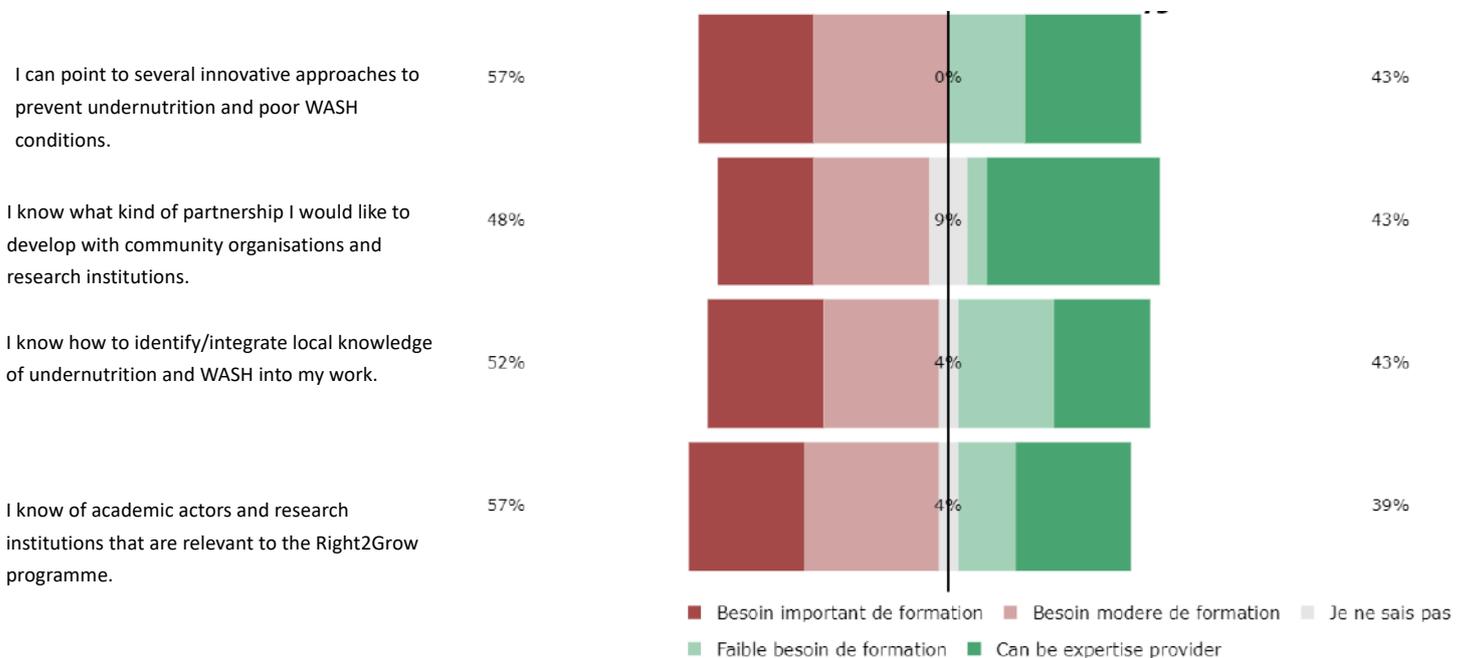


I know how to develop recommendations for policy improvement based on identified gaps.

I am familiar with civil society monitoring tools to track policy implementation.

I was involved in monitoring government service delivery and policy implementation.

### Knowledge Area 4: Work with community-based organisations and research institutes to identify and promote innovative approaches to prevent undernutrition and poor hygiene and sanitation.



### Reflection:

With regard to the technical knowledge and skills needed to achieve Outcome 3, respondents indicated that they have a good understanding of why undernutrition needs to be addressed through a multisectoral and inclusive approach, best practices in integrated WASH-Nutrition programming, and effective strategies to promote effective collaboration between different ministries and stakeholders.

In all other knowledge areas related to Outcome 3, respondents expressed a strong need for capacity building, starting with reviewing existing legislation, knowing how to develop recommendations for policy improvement based on identified gaps, and working with community-based organisations and research institutes to identify and promote innovative approaches to prevent undernutrition and poor WASH conditions.

In the table below, you can see the lowest (column 2) and highest (column 3) training/capacity building needs by knowledge area, as well as potential providers of expertise from your country and the Consortium (column 4). Column 1 shows the average needs per knowledge area. For ease of understanding and comparison, the average needs by knowledge area are ranked from top to bottom and may not follow the order of knowledge areas as presented in the graphs above.

5.5 The following are the highlights of the assessment of technical knowledge and skills related to outcome 3:

Average needs by knowledge area	Lowest training need (% of responses)	Highest training need (% of responses)	Those who can provide expertise
<b>Knowledge Area 2:</b> Review of existing legislation (60%)	Knowledge of effective approaches to disseminating results (48%)	Criteria for reviewing national WASH and nutrition legislation, policies and strategies (70%)	CNCIEPA, GSB, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge Area 3:</b> Identify gaps in policy implementation and make evidence-based recommendations (58%)	Familiarity with successful, evidence-based advocacy campaigns and describing what was done to achieve impact (48%)	Familiarity with civil society monitoring tools to track policy implementation (61%)  Know how to develop recommendations for policy improvement based on identified gaps (61%)	ACF, CNCIEPA, GSB, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge Area 4:</b> Work with community organisations and research institutes to	Innovative approaches to prevent	Establishing links with academic actors and research institutions	ACF, CNCIEPA, GSB, OMAES, World Vision

identify and promote innovative approaches to prevent undernutrition and poor hygiene and sanitation (53%)	undernutrition and poor WASH conditions (43%)	that are relevant to the Right2Grow programme (57%)	
<b>Knowledge Area 1 :</b> Understand the basic principles of the WASH-nutrition nexus and the multi-sectoral approach to nutrition (41%)	Understanding why undernutrition needs to be addressed through a multi-sectoral and inclusive approach (70%)	Explain the added value of national policies, plans and budgets that cut across sectors (61%)	ACF, AJCAD, AMADECOM, CNCIEPA, GSB, OMAES, World Vision

**BOX 3: What Right2Grow Burkina Faso partners say about their expertise and needs related to outcome 3:**

Expertize....

"The development of action plans to follow up on these commitments with all stakeholders in the decision-making process.

"Support for political and textual reforms."

"Monitoring government service delivery and policy implementation; civil society monitoring tools to track policy implementation."

**What are the needs in terms of support and capacity building?**

"Training of decision-makers at the decentralised level on resource mobilisation for local development financing."

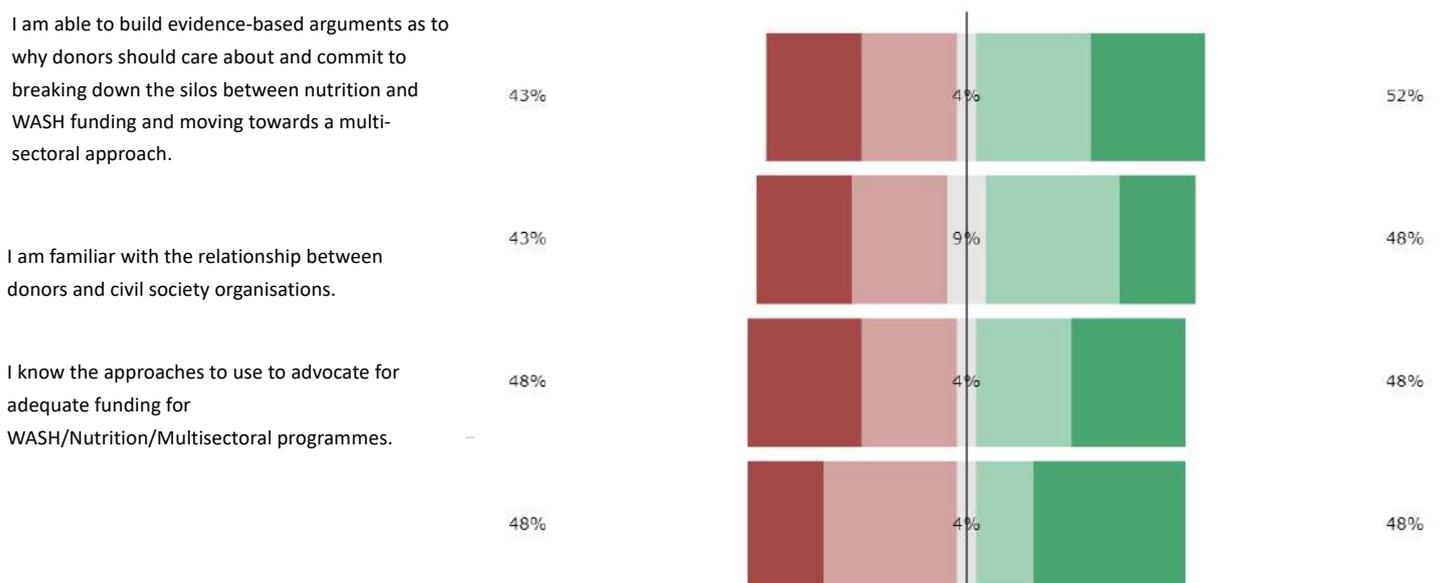
"Develop recommendations for policy improvement based on identified gaps. Evaluate national WASH and nutrition policies and plans, Develop criteria to be used to review national WASH and nutrition legislation, policies and strategies."

"Sountien on the partnership I would like to set up with community organisations and research institutions."

6. The following is an overview of the results related to the three knowledge areas of **outcome 4**:

**"Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition."**

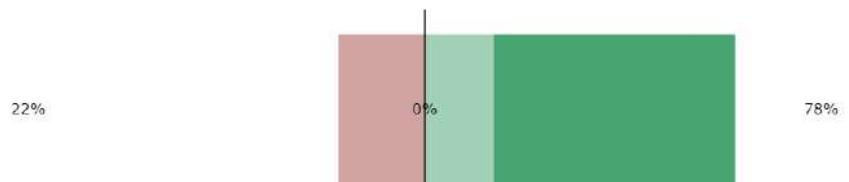
**Knowledge Area 1: Lobby donors for better funding for nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene, and for multi-sectoral programming.**



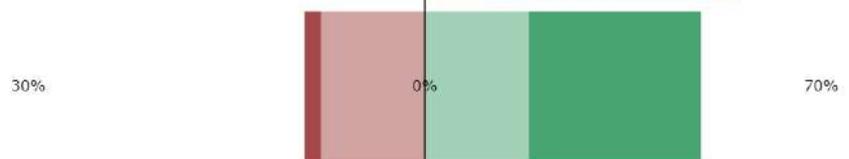
I can name donors who are currently funding nutrition and/or WASH programmes.

## Knowledge Area 2: Advocating for increased action on the Sustainable Development Goals

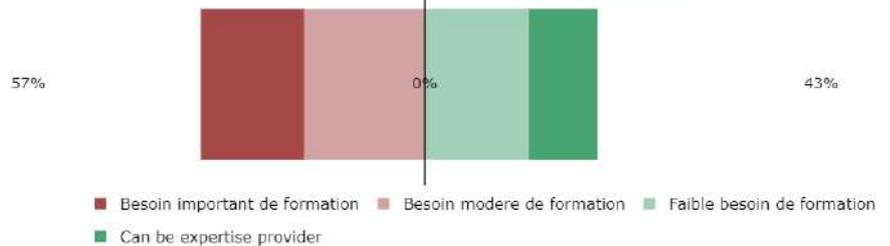
I can name the SDGs that my organisation is aligned with in its programming.



I am aware of and familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

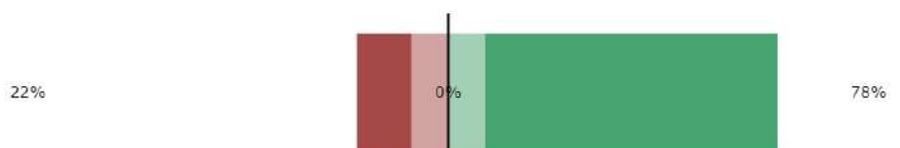


I am able to identify the reasons why there is a lack of action and commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in order to find arguments and strategies that show why a wide range of actors should care more about these goals and commit more to achieving them.

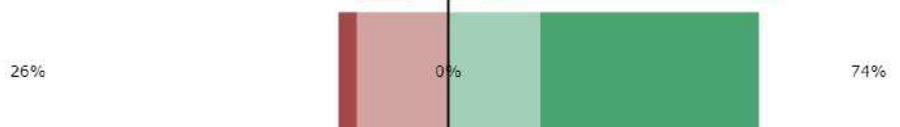


## Knowledge Area 3: Bringing local knowledge and experience to the international arena

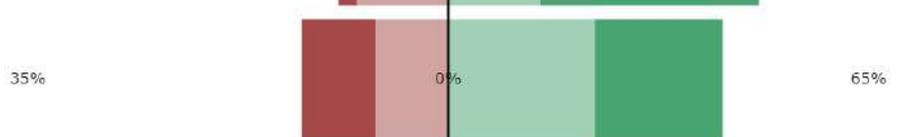
My organisation has the capacity to engage internationally.



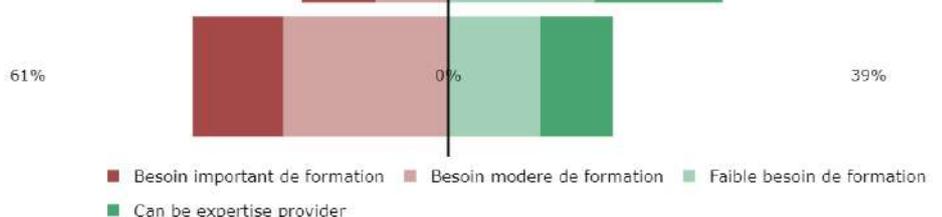
I have experience in public speaking and/or presentation.



I feel comfortable presenting my local knowledge and experience on the international stage.



I have the networking skills required to participate successfully in the international arena.



## Reflection:

Looking at the results related to outcome 3, it appears that the majority of respondents have the knowledge and technical skills to advocate for increased action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to identify the reasons why there is a lack of action and commitment to achieve them. The Right2Grow Consortium partners in Mali also felt positively about their ability to engage on the international stage and bring local knowledge and experience to the international stage.

About half of the respondents indicated that they would be interested in capacity building in the area of international advocacy, including how to lobby donors for better funding for nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene, and for multi-sectoral programming.

In the table below, you can see the lowest (column 2) and highest (column 3) training/capacity building needs by knowledge area, as well as potential providers of expertise from your country and the Consortium (column 4). Column 1 shows the average needs per knowledge area. For ease of understanding and comparison, the average needs by knowledge area are ranked from top to bottom and may not follow the order of knowledge areas as presented in the graphs above.

6.4 The following are the highlights of the assessment of technical knowledge and skills related to outcome 4:

Average needs by knowledge area	Lowest training need (% of responses)	Highest training need (% of responses)	Those who can provide expertise
<b>Knowledge Area 1 :</b> Lobby donors for better funding for nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene, and for multi-sectoral programming (45.5%)	Ability to build evidence-based arguments as to why donors should care about and commit to breaking down the silos between nutrition and WASH funding and moving towards a multi-sectoral approach (52%)	Approaches to advocate for adequate funding of WASH/Nutrition programmes Multi-sector (48%)  Knowledge of donors currently funding nutrition and/or WASH programmes (48%)	ACF, AJCAD, CNCIEPA, GSB, OMAES, World Vision
<b>Knowledge Area 3 :</b> Bringing local knowledge and experience to the	Ability to engage internationally (78%)	Networking skills required to participate successfully in the international arena (61%)	ACF, CNCIEPA, GSB, OMAES, World Vision

international stage (36%)			
<b>Knowledge Area 2 :</b> Call for more action on the Sustainable Development Goals (36%)	Knowledge of which SDGs an organisation is aligned with in its programming (78%)	Ability to identify the reasons why there is a lack of action and commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in order to find arguments and strategies that show why a wide range of actors should care more about these goals and commit more to achieving them (57%)	ACF, AJCAD, CNCIEPA, GSB, OMAES, World Vision

BOX 4: This is what Right2Grow Burkina Faso partners say about their expertise and needs related to outcome 4:

Expertizes...

"Lobbying and Advocacy in International Funding."

"Approaches to use to advocate for adequate funding for WASH/Nutrition/Multisectoral programmes."

"We are members and chairs of many networks at national and international level (education, health, food safety and nutrition...) and having led several lobbying trajectories, we have experience in public speaking and/or presentation."

#### What are the needs in terms of support and capacity building?

"Capacity building in public speaking skills, presentation, advocacy, networking, partner approach".

"Training of NGOs on the link (nexus) between humanitarian and development and fundraising."

"Networking and identifying potential donors."

"Need to know the relationship between donors and civil society organisations".

"To be trained on advocacy techniques towards international donors.

"Capacity building in networking, formulation of advocacy arguments for donor funding, advocacy approaches for adequate funding for WASH and nutrition."

## B. Results of the assessment of knowledge and skills in monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

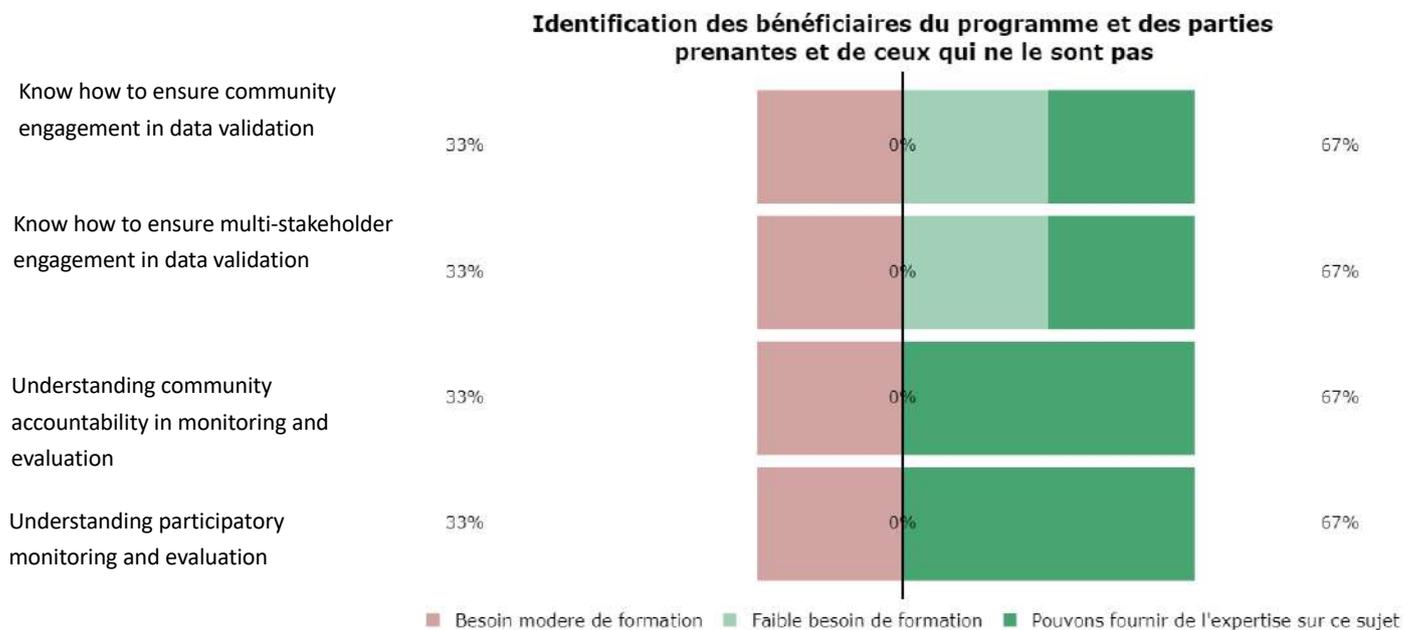
This part of the questionnaire aimed to identify expertise and needs in the following areas relevant to MEAL work: Selection of target groups and programme stakeholders; Monitoring and evaluation system and tools; Knowledge of qualitative monitoring and evaluation methods; Use and management of data and Cross-cutting themes relevant to M&E.

### 1. Overview of responses received by country Consortium partner :

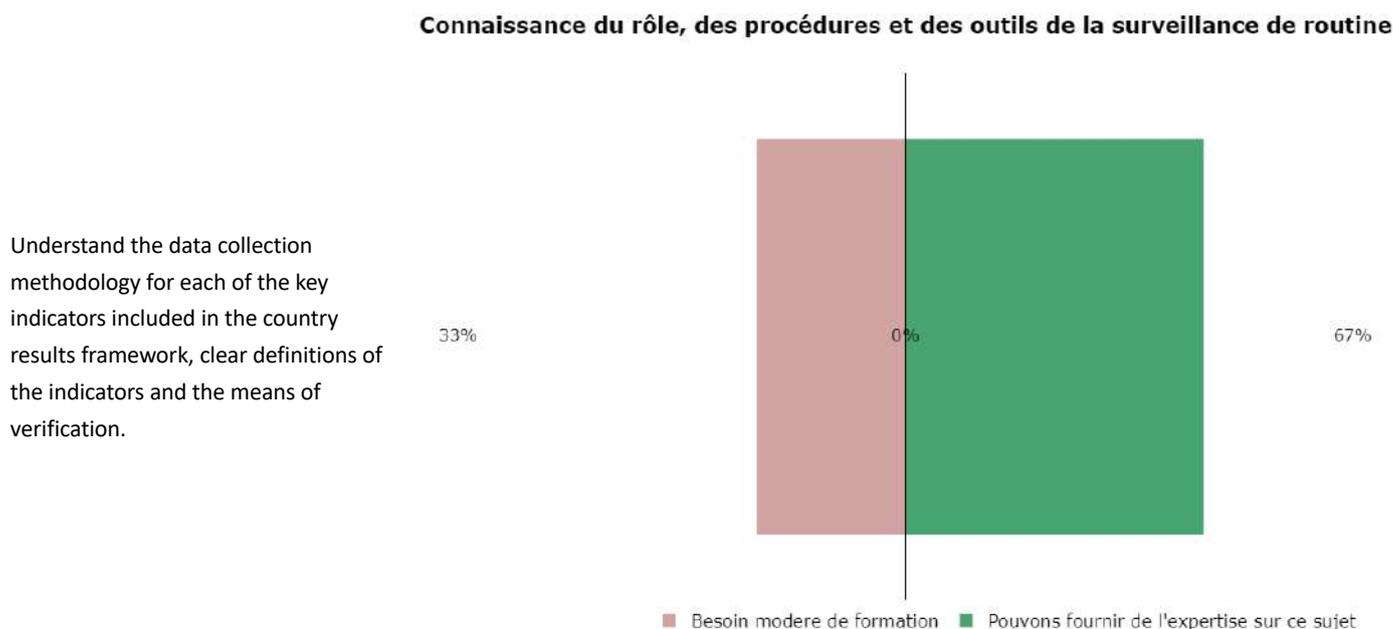
Organization	Number of responses
ACF / AAH	2
CNCIEPA	1
<b>TOTAL :</b>	<b>3</b>

Technical monitoring and evaluation (M&E) staff from only two of the Right2Grow Consortium's partner organisations in Mali responded to this questionnaire, making the results unrepresentative. Despite this limitation, the results provide a good starting point for understanding the main needs and priorities for M&E capacity building. It is recommended that these results be discussed and validated (or not) and that technical M&E priorities for Right2Grow Mali be defined jointly with all national partners.

## 2. Identification of target groups and stakeholders of the programme and those who are not.

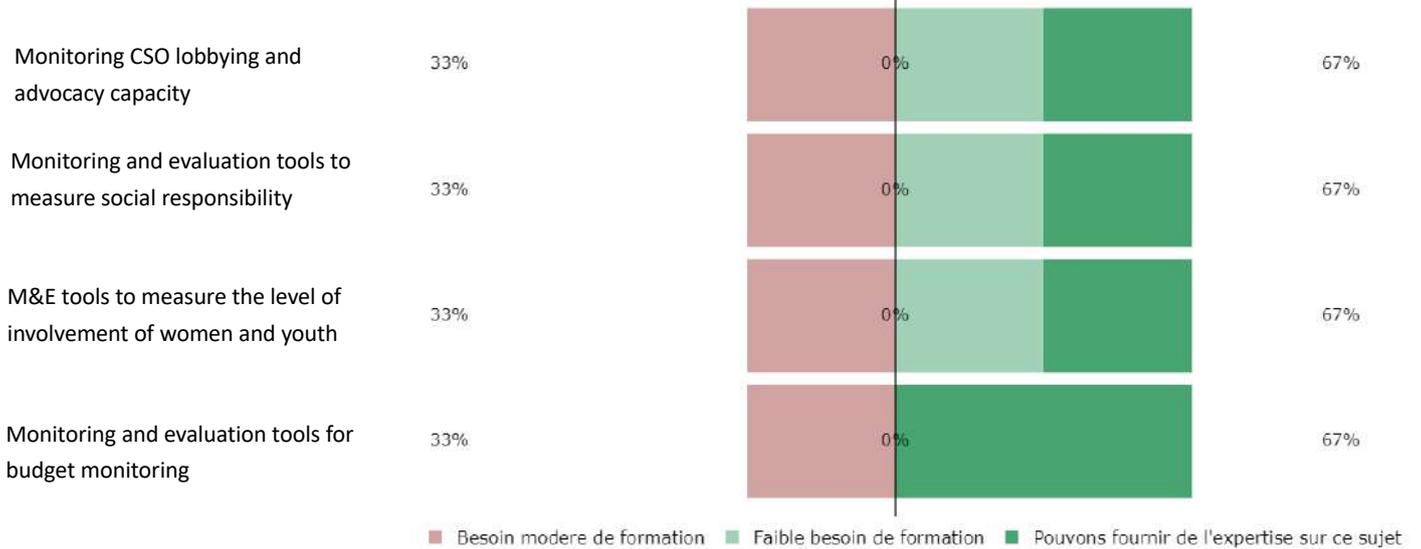


## 3. Knowledge of routine monitoring procedures and tools



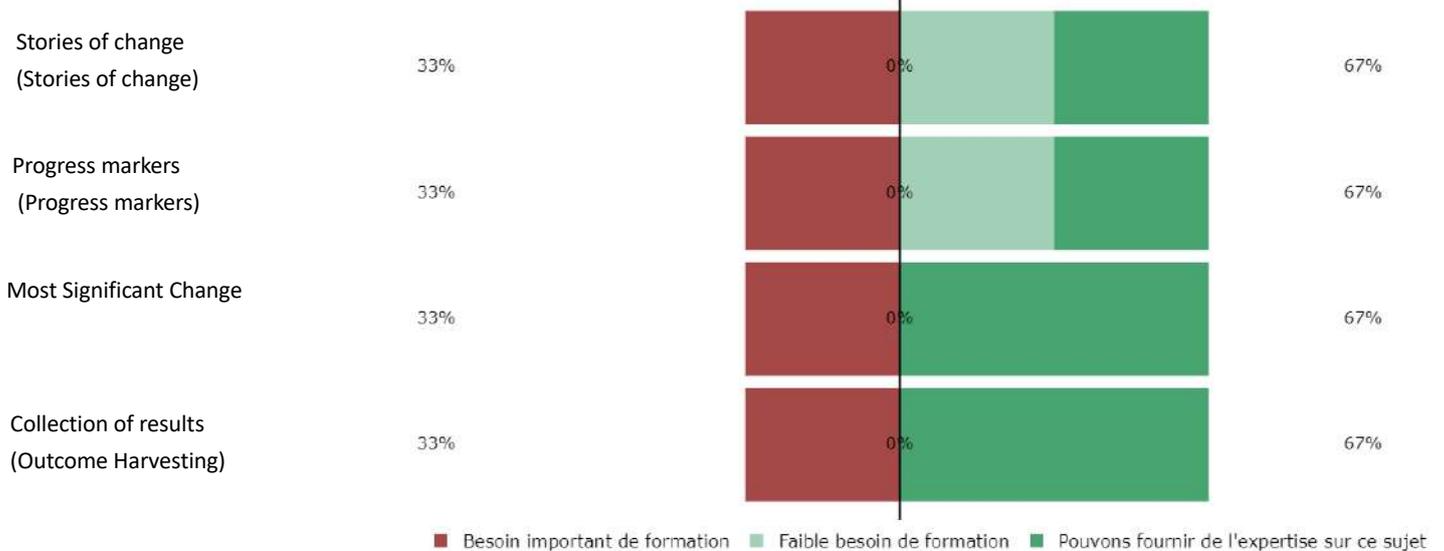
#### 4. Understand the relevant tools for monitoring and evaluation in different thematic areas.

**Comprendre les outils pertinents pour le suivi et l'évaluation dans les domaines suivants**



#### 5. Knowledge of the use of qualitative methods for monitoring and evaluation.

**Connaissance de la manière d'utiliser les méthodes qualitatives suivantes pour le suivi et l'évaluation**



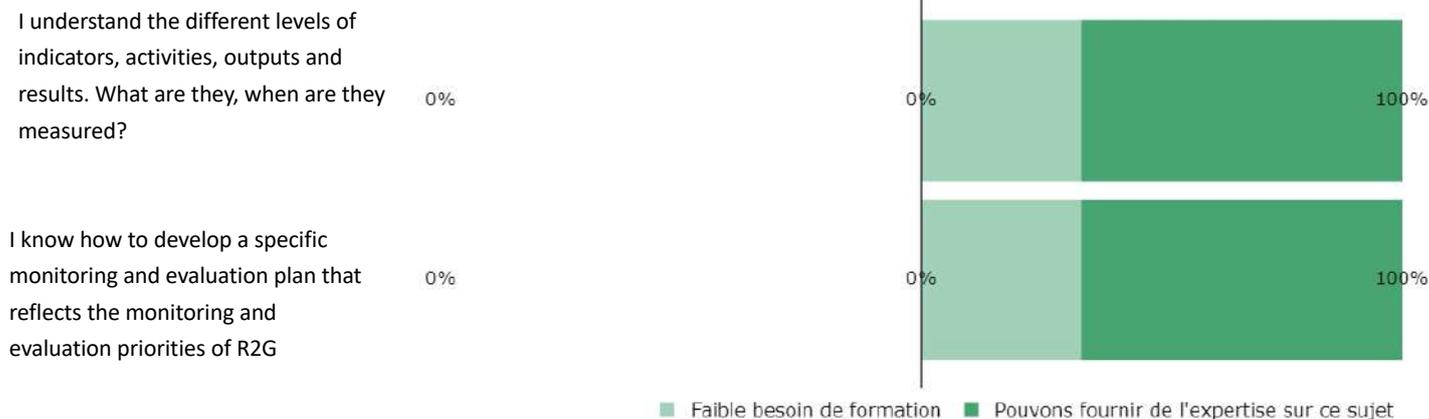
## 6. Use and management of data

### Utilisation et gestion des données



## 7. Monitoring and evaluation system and tools

### Système et outils de suivi et d'évaluation



## 8. Cross-cutting themes

I understand the disaggregation requirements for identifying and working with vulnerable and marginalised groups, including women, children and young people.

0%

I know how to make M&E adaptations to meet the limitations of COVID 19.

0%

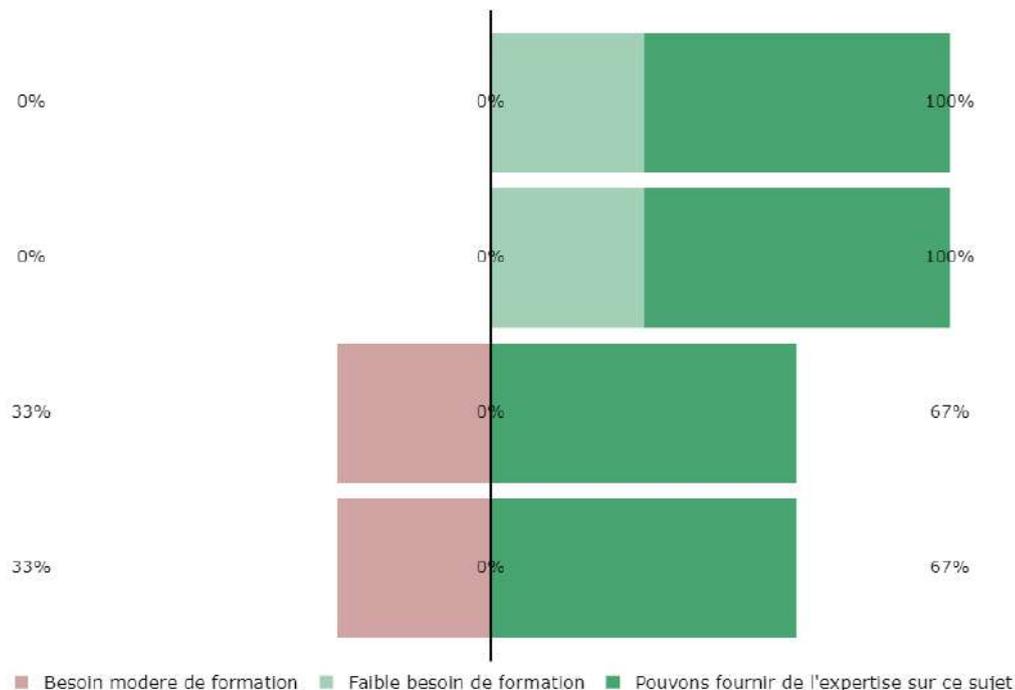
I know how to integrate child protection measures into M&E materials, protocols and training tools to ensure adherence to child protection guidelines.

33%

I can identify information needs taking into account cross-cutting themes such as gender, inclusion and disability.

33%

### Thèmes transversaux



## 9. Reporting

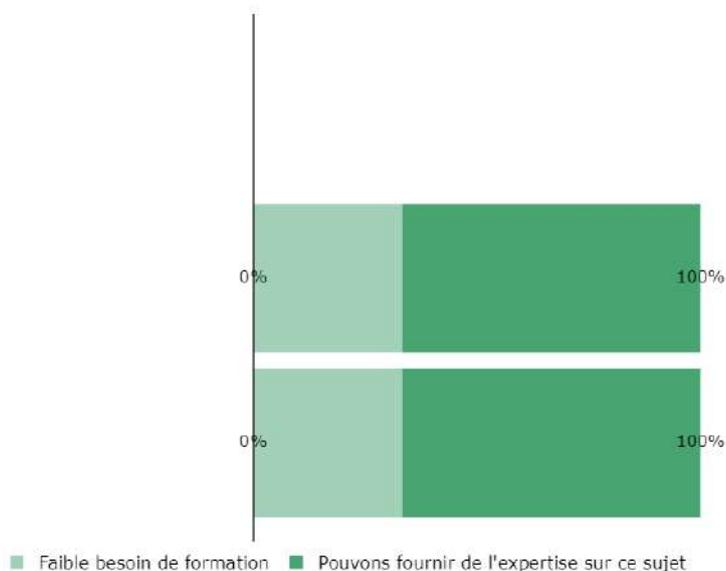
I understand the quality control of the reports.

0%

I know how to review reports for completeness, consistency and accuracy.

0%

### Reporting



**Reflection:**

In general, respondents feel reassured by their knowledge and skills related to the different topics of monitoring and evaluation. In general, respondents feel reassured by their knowledge and skills related to the different topics of monitoring and evaluation.

A third of respondents expressed a moderate need for training in the area of identifying programme beneficiaries and stakeholders and those who are not, as well as in the area of understanding relevant M&E tools such as tools for monitoring CSO advocacy capacity, tools for measuring the degree of social accountability, tools for measuring the level of involvement of women and youth etc.

Similarly, a third of respondents (33%) expressed a strong need for training in the understanding and use of qualitative methods for monitoring and evaluation such as Stories of Change, Markers of Progress, Most Significant Features etc.

Based on the results of the global M&E capacity building prioritization workshops held in September 2021, the M&E technical experts from Mali who participated in the workshop proposed the following:

<p><b>Capacity building priorities for 2022 :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Identify information needs for cross-cutting themes (gender, inclusion, disability)</li><li>5. Integrating child protection measures into M&amp;E tools and protocols</li><li>6. M&amp;E tools to measure women and youth involvement</li></ul>
<p><b>Capacity building priorities for 2023 :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Methodology on the most significant change</li><li>5. Degree of social accountability</li><li>6. History of change</li></ul>

These pre-identified thematic priorities should guide future M&E capacity building activities in Mali, regardless of their structure: in-country/regional face-to-face training, training of trainers (ToT), distance learning, hybrid distance learning with an in-country face-to-face component. All options must take into account the restrictions imposed by COVID19 , the budgetary implications and the quality of the training.

## C. Results of the Learning and Sharing evaluation

The sharing and learning section of the questionnaire identifies attitudes and expectations towards sharing and learning at three levels: at the individual level, at the R2G partner level and at the wider consortium level. This snapshot at the beginning of the project of the relationship that R2G teams have with learning and sharing in their practice will allow us to monitor our progress over time towards becoming a learning consortium.

**The results of the evaluation at the individual level** allow each of us to question our practices and the space we give to learning and sharing knowledge in our daily work.

The results at the partner level will allow us to assess whether the organisations in their mode of operation, their processes and tools offer a framework, space and sufficient time to allow them to benefit from the knowledge of their teams by encouraging them to learn, share and question themselves regularly with the aim of constantly improving our practices.

Finally, the results at consortium level will feed into the overall learning and sharing strategy and will give us valuable insights into building together our vision of what a learning consortium should be.

### 1. Who are the respondents?

Organization	Number of respondents
ACF/AAH	7
AJCAD	1
AMADECOM	1
CDMA	1
CNCIEPA	3
GSB	2
OMAES	3
STOP SAHEL	1
World Vision	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>

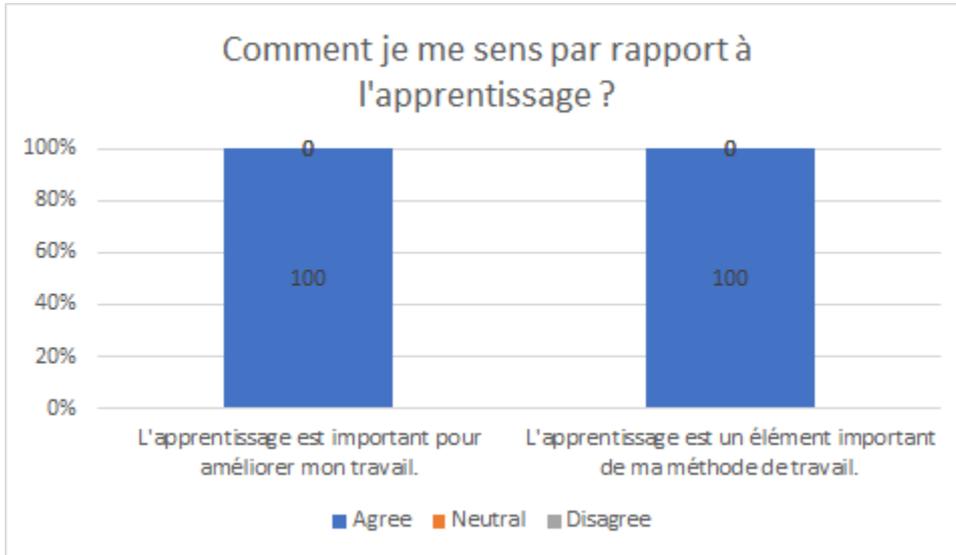
26 people responded to the questionnaire, 53% of whom are from an international organisation and 47% from a local organisation.

The analyses of the responses below are structured around the three levels mentioned above, i.e. individual, organisational and consortium.

It is the synthesis of these three levels that will allow us to have an inclusive approach to developing our culture of learning and sharing within Right2Grow.

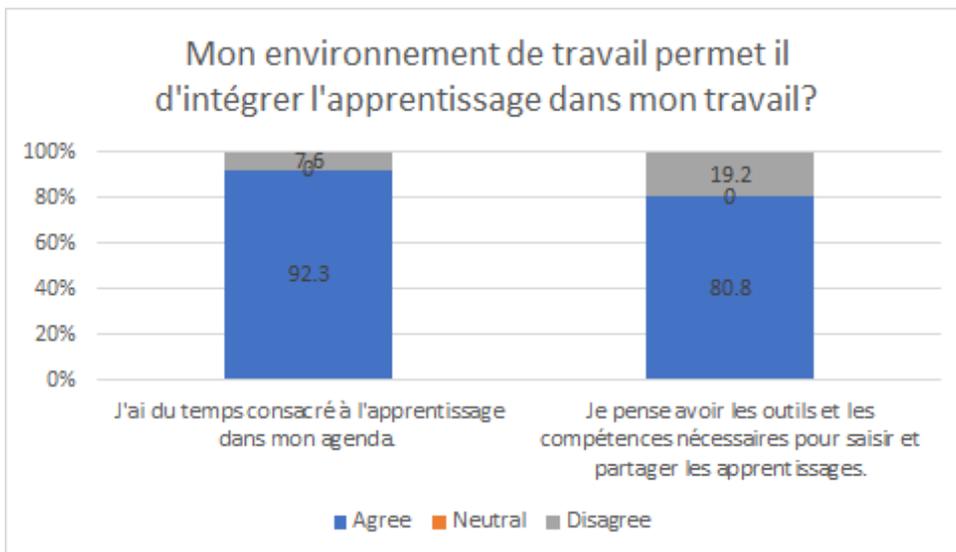
## 2. At the individual level: What are people's perceptions and practices regarding learning?

- What do you think about apprenticeships?



100% of respondents are aware of the importance of learning for progress and impact and are already integrating it into their way of working. This is excellent ground for developing an ambitious learning and sharing strategy, as people are already aware of and active on learning issues.

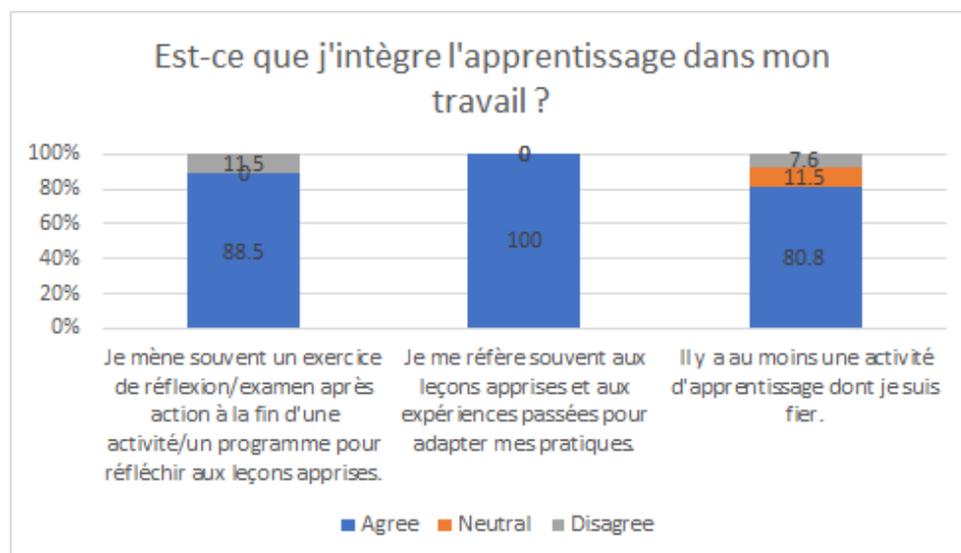
- Does my work environment allow for learning to be integrated into my work?



In addition to a good understanding of the usefulness of learning, 92% of respondents said that they had time dedicated to learning in their diary and 80% felt well equipped both to capitalise on existing knowledge and to share/disseminate it with their colleagues. It would be interesting to understand a little better in what form and when people devote time to learning in their daily work in order to capitalise on good practices and

possibly generalise them. 80% consider that they have the tools to learn individually while 19% do not feel equipped. It would be interesting to understand what the gaps are in order to propose ideas for activities to teams to strengthen their individual learning potential.

- **Do I integrate learning into my work?**



These results are consistent with previous ones. The teams in Mali already seem to have a learning culture and have feedback mechanisms in place. Thus 88% of individuals regularly do reflective exercises to learn from their past practices and all are inspired by the lessons learned to adapt their practices, 80% of respondents have at least one activity of which they are proud, which leads us to believe that the learning techniques concerned are mastered and that these colleagues are therefore holders of knowledge that they could pass on to others.

- **Let's hear from our colleagues on the learning activities they are proud of**

Below you will find each respondent's answers to the question: "What learning activity are you most proud of? Take a look at the variety and common trends in individual approaches to integrating learning into their work! These answers will serve as a central basis for the brainstorming process to develop the overall sharing strategy.

- The final evaluation of the COVID 19 project with UNICEF
- We learned a lot in the implementation of the USAID/IGHS (High Impact Health Services) and KJK (keneya Jemu Kan) projects
- We have capitalised in the form of a booklet our experience of more than 15 years in family and community food security through organised women's groups
- Learning to process local products
- Sharing experiences
- Community Annual Review of Programme Outcomes
- Establishment of nutrition committees at the district level for the coordination of nutrition activities at the health district level

- Community reviews and sharing of DIPs (Detailed Implementation Budget)
- Annual reviews of inter-project exchanges and experience sharing.
- Sharing experiences on financial reviews, budgeting
- How to present a Power Point well Facilitate a virtual presentation (Zoom, TEAMS)
- Learning about civil society Trackfin WASH report production with WaterAid
- Reporting audit management tools
- Publication of activities on the website
- The holding of the workshop for the signing of commitments by the mayors and approved by the prefect of the cercle. Several steps were taken in this direction.

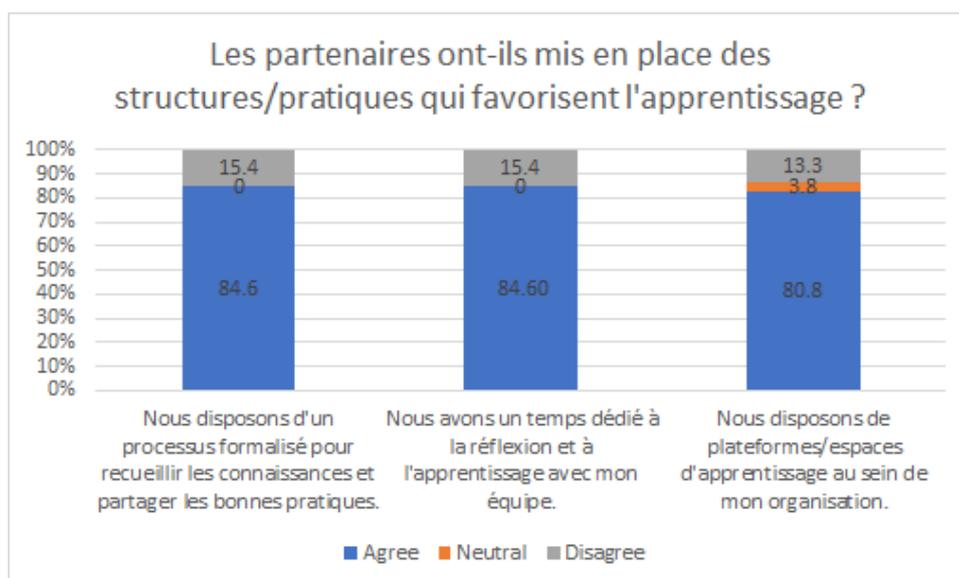
### What are we going to do with all this?

At the individual level: R2G members have a wealth of knowledge that is part of their professional pride and success. A reflection will be carried out with the A&P focal points to encourage the different members to share their successes in order to reinforce the knowledge sharing dynamic.

Global level: Colleagues in Mali already have a good culture of learning and sharing. There is therefore no need to sensitise them on this subject. Individual knowledge is a good springboard to stimulate the culture of sharing. It would be interesting to create a regular time of exchange so that people can share with their other colleagues the learning activities they are proud of.

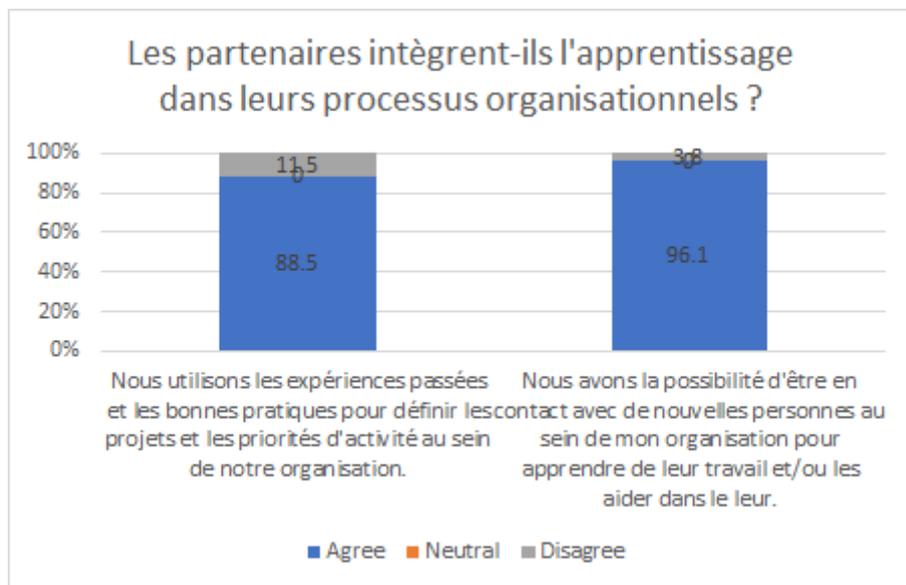
### 3. For my organisation: What are our partners' practices and the integration of learning?

- Do partners have structures/practices in place that support learning?



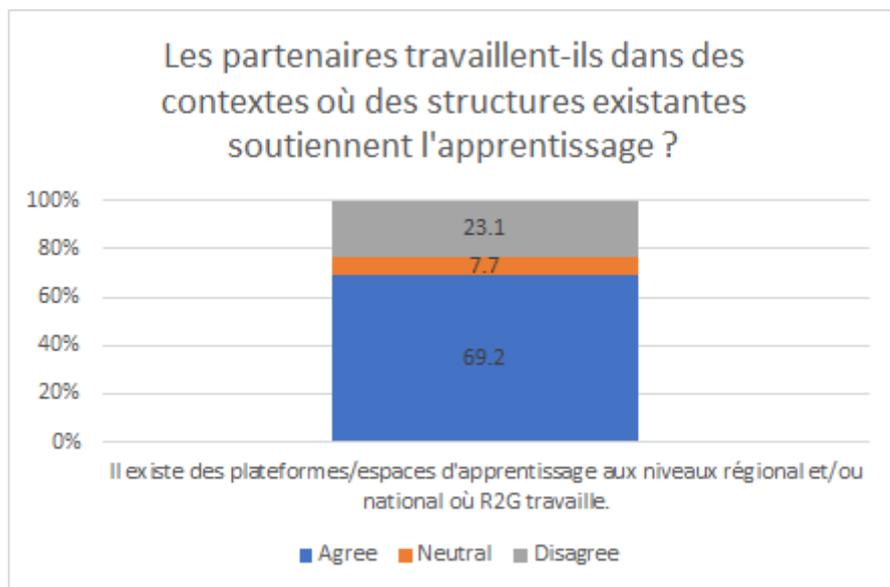
As at the individual level, at the organisational level we see the same integration of learning into the way people work. As 92% of individuals said they make time at the individual level for learning, a high percentage of 84% find that their team makes time for reflection and learning. This is supported by the 80% of respondents who said that their organisation has a formalised process for gathering and sharing knowledge.

- **Do partners integrate learning into their organisational processes?**



Referring to past experiences seems to be an acquired process among R2G partners (88%) but it would be interesting to see whether this process is done systematically or not. 96% of people consider that they can contact their colleagues to ask for help, which illustrates a common practice of putting people in touch with each other and the mutualisation of knowledge on which R2G's overall sharing strategy can be based.

- **Do partners work in contexts where existing structures support learning?**



Mali seems to have many learning platforms that will be interesting to build on for learning and sharing. 30% of respondents either had no opinion on the matter or indicated that they do not work with these platforms, which would suggest that they are not aware of these platforms or that their organisation is not involved with them. Thus, these platforms and networks could be shared among the different partners in Mali. Depending on the learning and linking priorities expressed by the Mali team, it may also be relevant to engage with these platforms to ensure the sustainability of the learning captured and links created by Right2Grow beyond the duration of the project.

- [Let's go to the mapping! Which platforms are mentioned?](#)

Below are the open-ended responses asking for the names and themes of the learning spaces/platforms that partners use both internally and externally. The responses have been broadly categorised into partner-internal platforms/practices and external platforms/practices. The top section can be used to inform learning and sharing practices both within Mali and globally. The lower part can be used as a record for the Learning and Sharing Mali team to use as a reference when linking/sharing opportunities arise to engage with stakeholders beyond Right2Grow.

#### *Internal*

- AJCAD database
- workshops for self-evaluation and/or capitalisation of projects and programmes
- Spaces for exchange and sharing
- Meetings and workshops to share issues related to the themes, the "calls
- Team working group within omaes
- SharePoint, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Ecampus, Gespra
- the existence of e-learning and e-training spaces, the existence of thematic groups, R2G
- Information and capacity building meeting with the MEAL group on experience sharing and concept analysis
- Gender working group, advocacy focal point meeting, gender advocacy and communication team meetings
- face-to-face learning day; video; capitalisation documents
- The Working Sessions
- Working group, themes right to grow

#### *External*

- National Research and Analysis Unit - Regional Budget Monitoring Commissions - Community Collection and Advocacy Units
- We currently have the partners World Vision and ACF-Mali as platforms with whom we work as well as others such as OMAES.
- Platforms (frameworks) for exchange on food and nutrition security
- Advocacy, gender and capacity building thematic groups,
- Forum meet and other tools or space

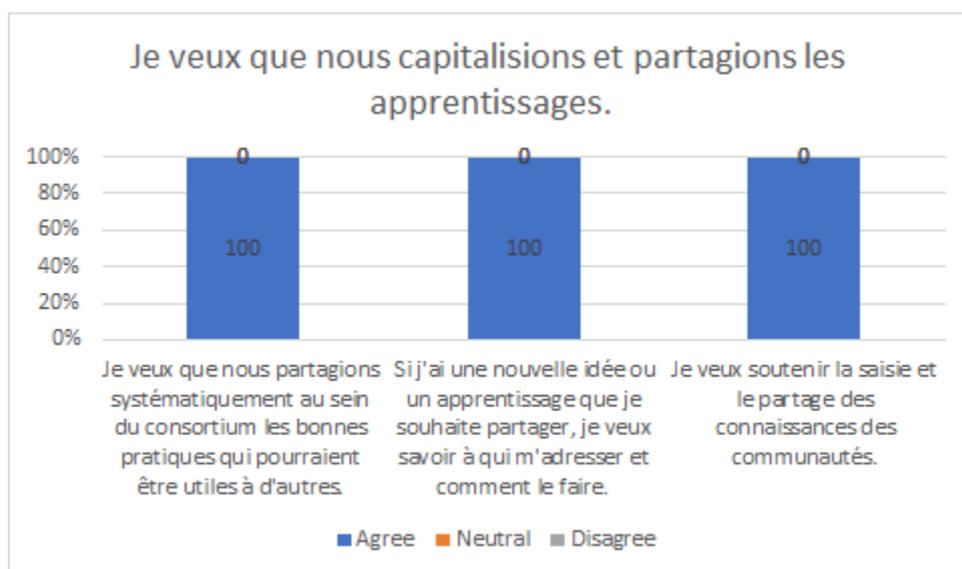
- WaSH community
- National, regional, local and communal frameworks for dialogue and advocacy between the State and CSOs on food and nutrition security in order to take stock of the level of implementation of the commitments made by the parties for a given result and, if necessary, to make the necessary recommendations to the technical services or national departments concerned. It functions as a monitoring, guidance and permanent facilitation framework to which each party reports on what it has done or not done, and the difficulties encountered.

#### What do we do with it all? - Suggestions for action :

- Share with the Mali team details of the organisations' formalised process for capitalising on knowledge and good practice, the time spent on learning and reflection within the teams and examples of existing learning spaces/platforms in Mali. This can also contribute to the design of the overall approach. The Learning and Sharing focal points in Mali can use these results to feed into its contribution on this topic.
- Use existing organisational learning practices both to inform Mali's learning agenda (e.g. types of learning activities) and the brainstorming of the overall sharing strategy. It would be interesting to think about a formalised sharing process at Right2Grow level and see how it might fit into partners' organisational practices.
- Keep a record of the external learning platforms that partners know of and work with in the coming years, so that Learning and Sharing in Mali can use this for future sharing opportunities.

#### 4. For Right2Grow: Where do we want to go, together, with Learning and Sharing?

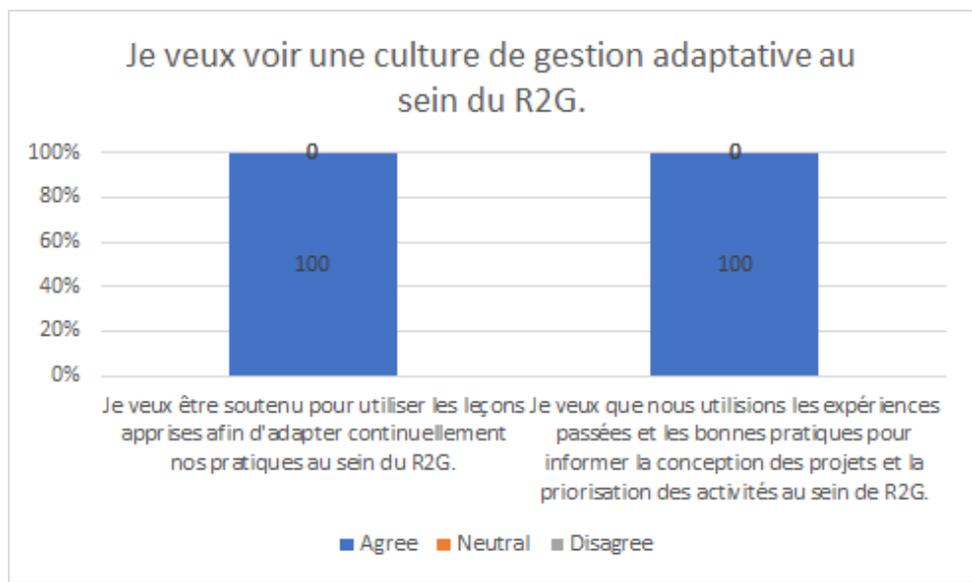
- **I want us to capitalise and share learning.**



This result is very positive: all respondents indicated that they were in favour of an approach that systematised the capitalisation, sharing and use of lessons learned in the implementation of the project. All responded that

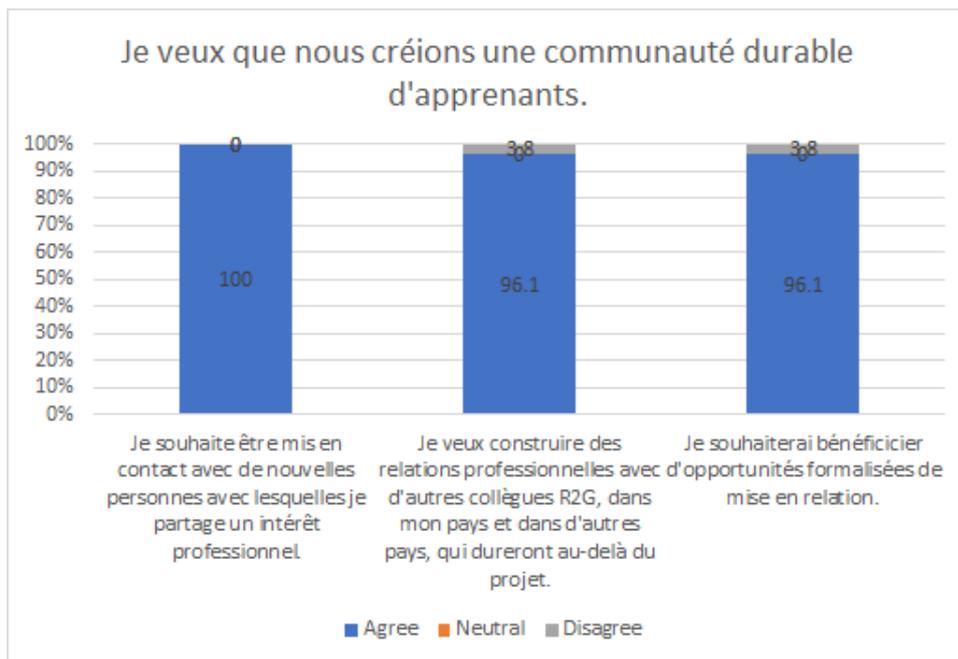
they would like to be engaged in a dynamic process of sharing their own learning within the consortium. It is important to have learning and sharing processes in Mali and at the global level that encourage everyone to engage in this, that the process for engaging is clear to all, and that the different teams and roles are represented in learning and sharing decision making at all levels. Finally, there is a clear commitment from partners to engage and increase the visibility of community knowledge.

- **I want to see an adaptive management culture within Right2Grow.**



There is a strong desire to see an adaptive management culture within Right2Grow. It will be important to base this approach on existing practices in the partner organisation, and to adapt it to the partnership context in Mali. There is also potential for transnational learning from adaptive management experiences. The global Learning & Sharing team also plans to support countries from a technical point of view in the implementation of adaptive management approaches.

- **I want us to create a sustainable community of learners**



Once again, there was an almost unanimous desire to build an R2G community that would allow everyone to learn and develop their professional network.

- [Let's imagine our future together!](#)

Below are the answers to the open question: What kind of linkage opportunities would you like to see formalised in Right2Grow? These answers should form the basis for brainstorming the overall sharing strategy, which will involve all Learning and Sharing focal points.

- A framework for sharing experience A network A platform A learning framework
- Exchange visit with R2G partners on best practices in Nutrition and WASH that can be easily replicated in our areas of intervention.
- I want to build professional relationships with other Right2Grow colleagues, in my country and with other countries, that will last beyond the project
- We would like to see opportunities for links with the themes of nutrition and wash.
- Virtual or face-to-face meeting
- Any capacity building and learning opportunities from the R2G project
- Mutual learning, Inclusion, Information sharing
- Information sharing and mutual learning
- National and regional liaison opportunities.
- Engagement with partners inside and outside Mali in the context of their involvement in sub-nutrition
- Monthly reflection on a theme
- Online opportunities, annual face-to-face meetings in Right2Grow member countries
- Forum for sharing experiences and success stories
- Regular sharing via TEAMS, sharing trip, etc.
- Email webinars, website
- Exchange spaces

### What do we do with it all? - Suggestions for action :

At the national level: There is an almost unanimous desire to create bridges and links between colleagues in Mali and more widely within R2G, which should be supported by proposing activities and sharing time to support the creation of an R2G professional network. The unanimous desire to better share the knowledge of the communities (100%) will be the subject of reflection within the teams in order to evaluate the measures and activities to be put in place to achieve this objective.

Global level: This information will be used to build our sharing strategy within the consortium in collaboration with the learning and sharing focal points in Mali.

## D. Results of the organisational development assessment

The purpose of this questionnaire was to better understand the institutional strengths and development needs of Consortium's national partners so that we can work together to develop an organisational development strategy. Ultimately, we want Right2Grow's civil society partners to be strong enough financially, technically and internally to exist long after our partnership ends. Here are the results.

### 1. Overview of responses received by country Consortium partner :

Organizations	Number of responses
ACF / AAH	5
AMADECOM	2
GSB	1
OMAES	1

Organizations	Number of responses
STOP-SAHEL	2
World Vision	3
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>14</b>

Almost all Right2Grow Consortium partners in Mali responded to this questionnaire, ensuring that the results are representative. It should be taken into consideration that not all participating organisations provided the same number of responses, so different organisational perspectives may influence the results.

## 2. Overview of the type of jobs that respond to this questionnaire :

Position	Number of responses
Middle manager, e.g. programme manager for advocacy, nutrition, WASH, community mobilisation or communication, counsellor or similar.	4
Senior manager, e.g. director, deputy director, head of department or other.	9
I do not work at senior or middle management level.	1

As this questionnaire was aimed at middle and senior managers, one of the answers (I do not work at senior or middle management level) is not valid.

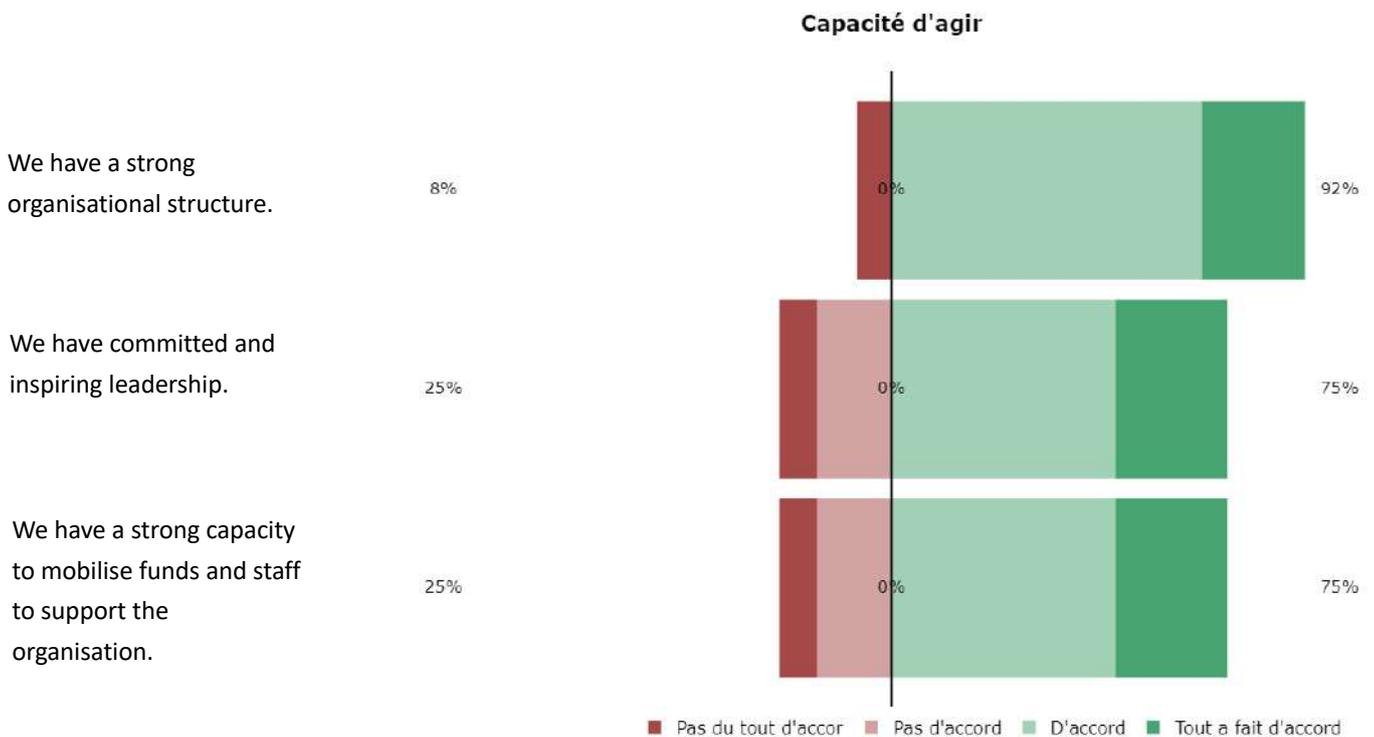
## 3. Overview of the governance structure of the organisations that responded to the questionnaire, looking at the representation of men, women and young people in management positions/steering committee members.

Organizations	>50% male	>50% female	>50% young people
ACF / AAH	3	0	1
AMADECOM	2	0	0

Organizations	>50% male	>50% female	>50% young people
GSB	1	0	0
OMAES	1	0	0
STOP-SAHEL	2	0	0
World Vision	3	0	0

All of Right2Grow Mali's partner organisations that participated in this survey are predominantly male-led. There are no women-led organisations. Only one youth-led organisation (AJCAD) did not participate.

#### 4. Capacity to act



In general, organisations are positive about their capacity to act. A quarter of them do not think that they have a strong capacity to mobilise funds and staff to support the organisation. Some of them point out that they need to strengthen their leadership in order to be able to mobilise more funds and sufficient staff to support the organisation in achieving its mission. Currently, fundraising is done in an "ad hoc" manner.

### 5. Ability to ensure consistency

Capacité à assurer la cohérence

We have a clear mandate, vision and strategy, supported by all staff.

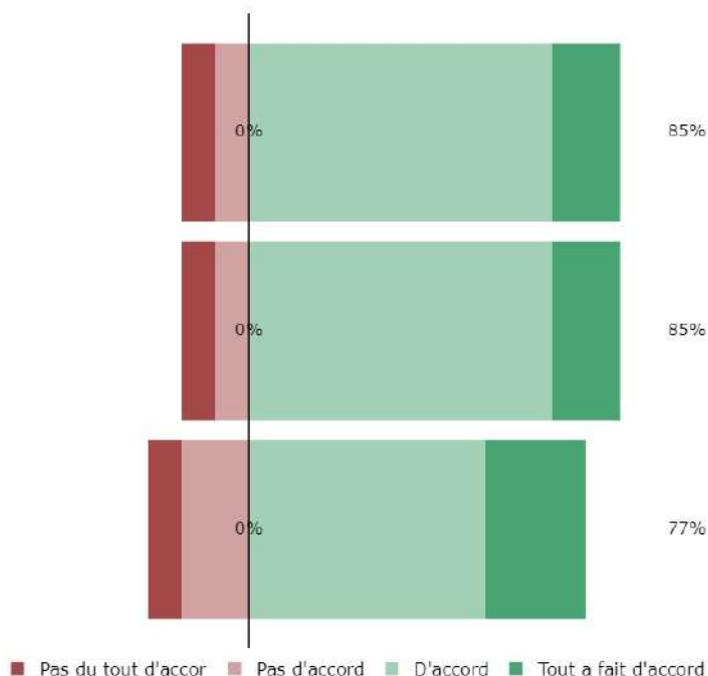
15%

We have a strong consistency, quality, style and reliability of management.

15%

We have robust policies, procedures and systems to support management and implementation, such as human resources, finance and information and communication technology.

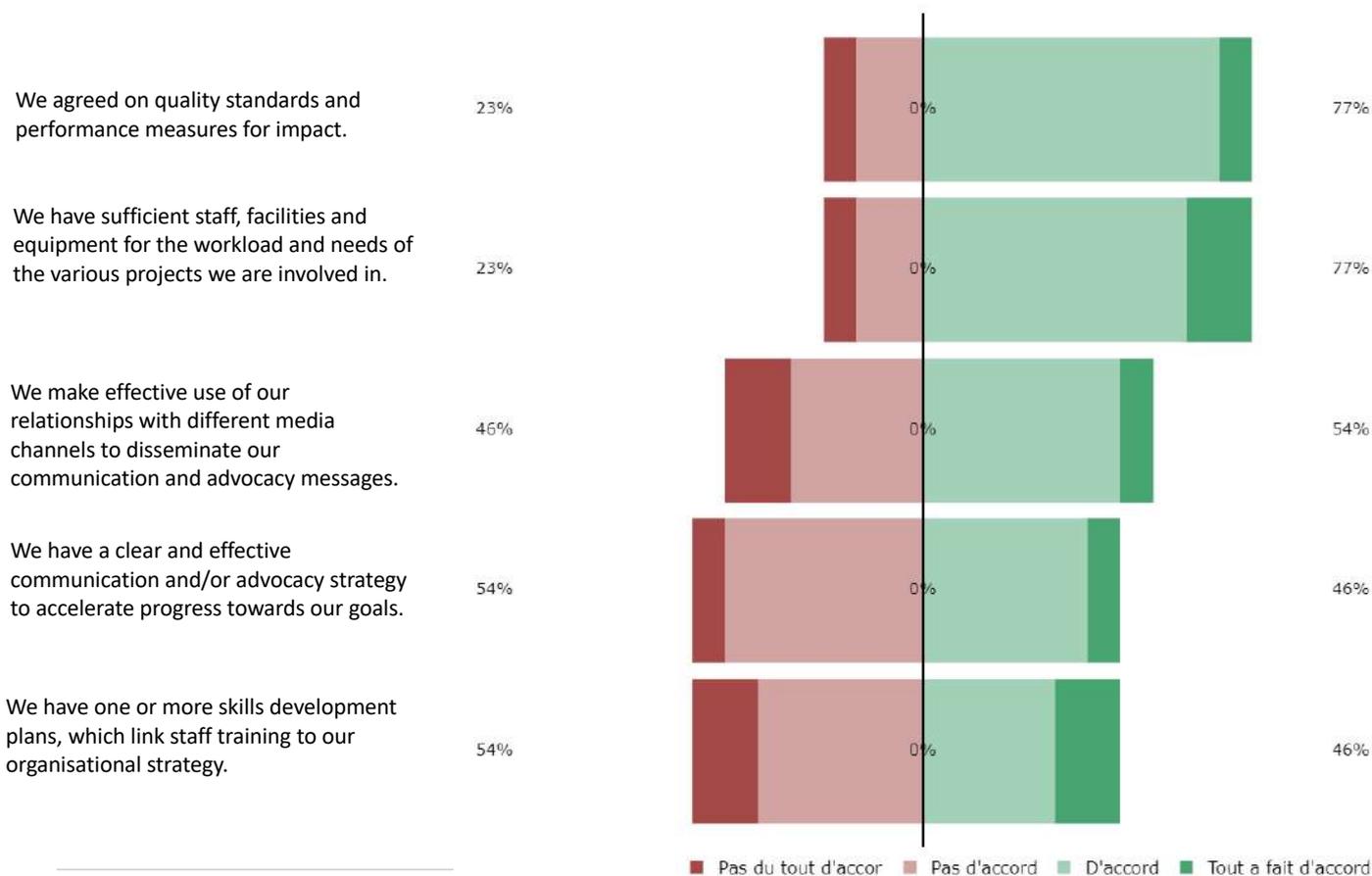
23%



In general, partners are confident in their ability to achieve coherence. Some of them mentioned that they have an administrative and financial procedures manual, accounting software and that they carry out a global audit of all their projects every year. Others shared that their organisation has a strategic plan, administrative, financial and accounting procedures manual, but struggles to develop a knowledge, information and communication management system. By strengthening their skills, for example, in organisational change and knowledge management, in setting up a Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning system, in institutional communication, some organisations could meet these challenges.

## 6. Capacity to deliver development results

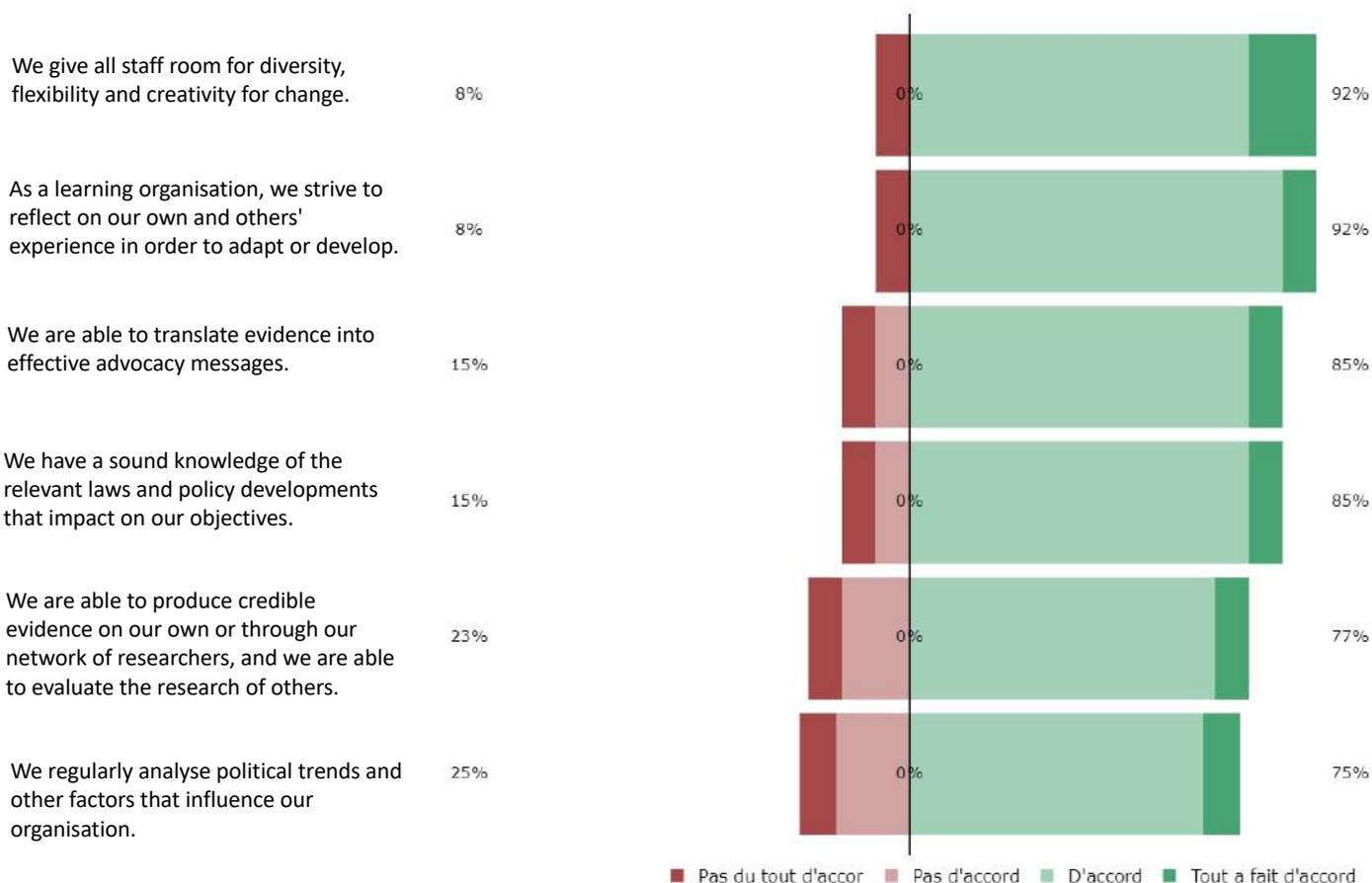
Capacité à obtenir des résultats en matière de développement



About half of the organisation (between 46% and 54%) perceive the need to improve their organisational capacity related to the achievement of development results, especially in the areas of using relationships with different media channels to disseminate communication and advocacy messages (46%), developing a clear and effective communication and/or advocacy strategy to accelerate progress towards its objectives (54%), and skills development plans, which link staff training to organisational strategy (54%)

## 7. Ability to learn and renew

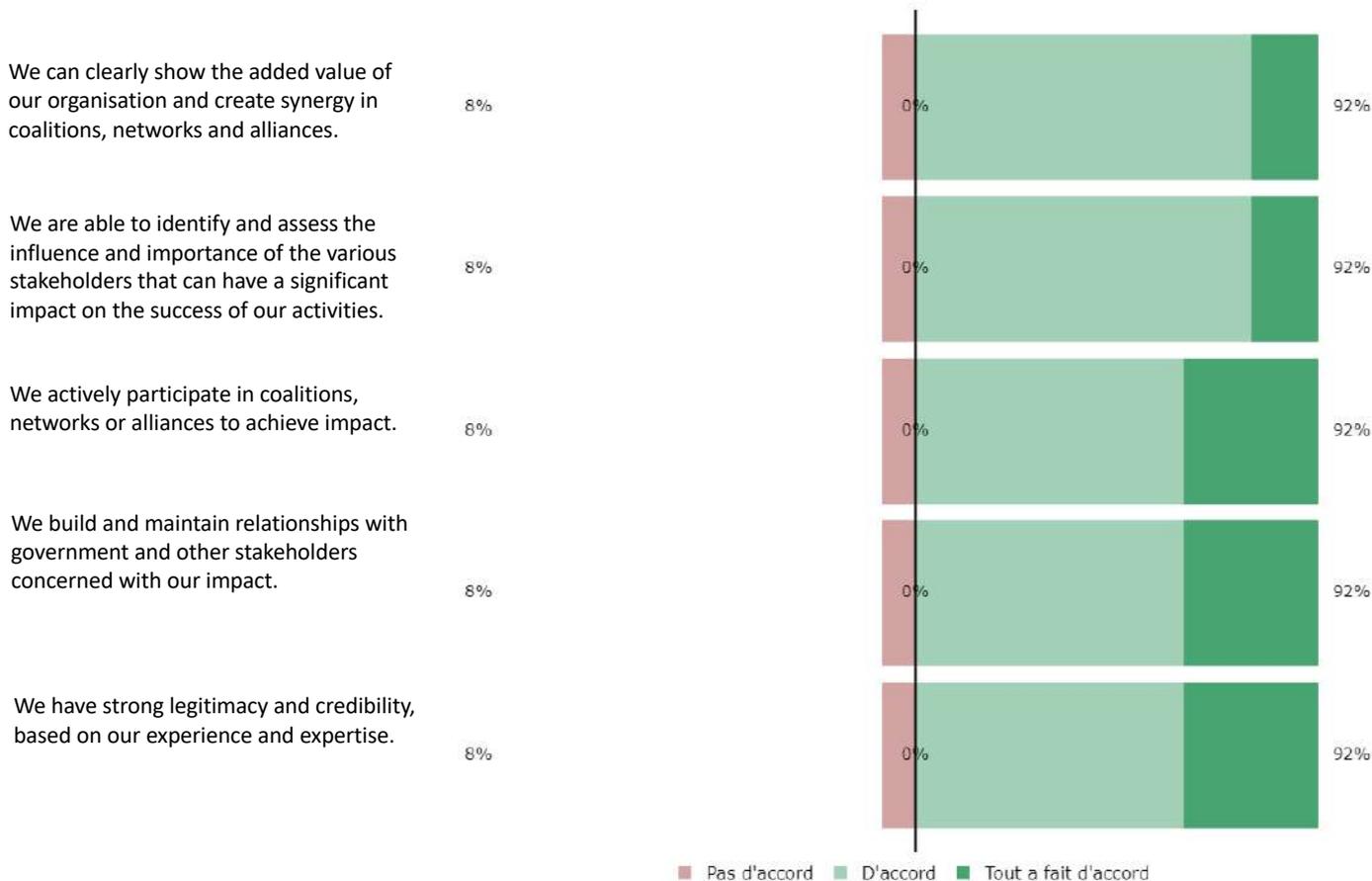
### Capacité d'apprendre et de se renouveler



In general, organisations are reassured about their capacity to learn and renew themselves. Around a quarter of organisations felt that they could improve their capacity to regularly analyse policy trends and other factors that influence the organisation, and to produce evidence and analyse evidence produced by others. To strengthen their capacity to learn and renew themselves, some organisations expressed the need for tools to analyse their practices, an organised system of learning and experience sharing, key staff with enhanced communication skills, and the establishment of a formal internal and external communication system and/or mechanism that is operational.

### 8. Ability to build relationships with external stakeholders

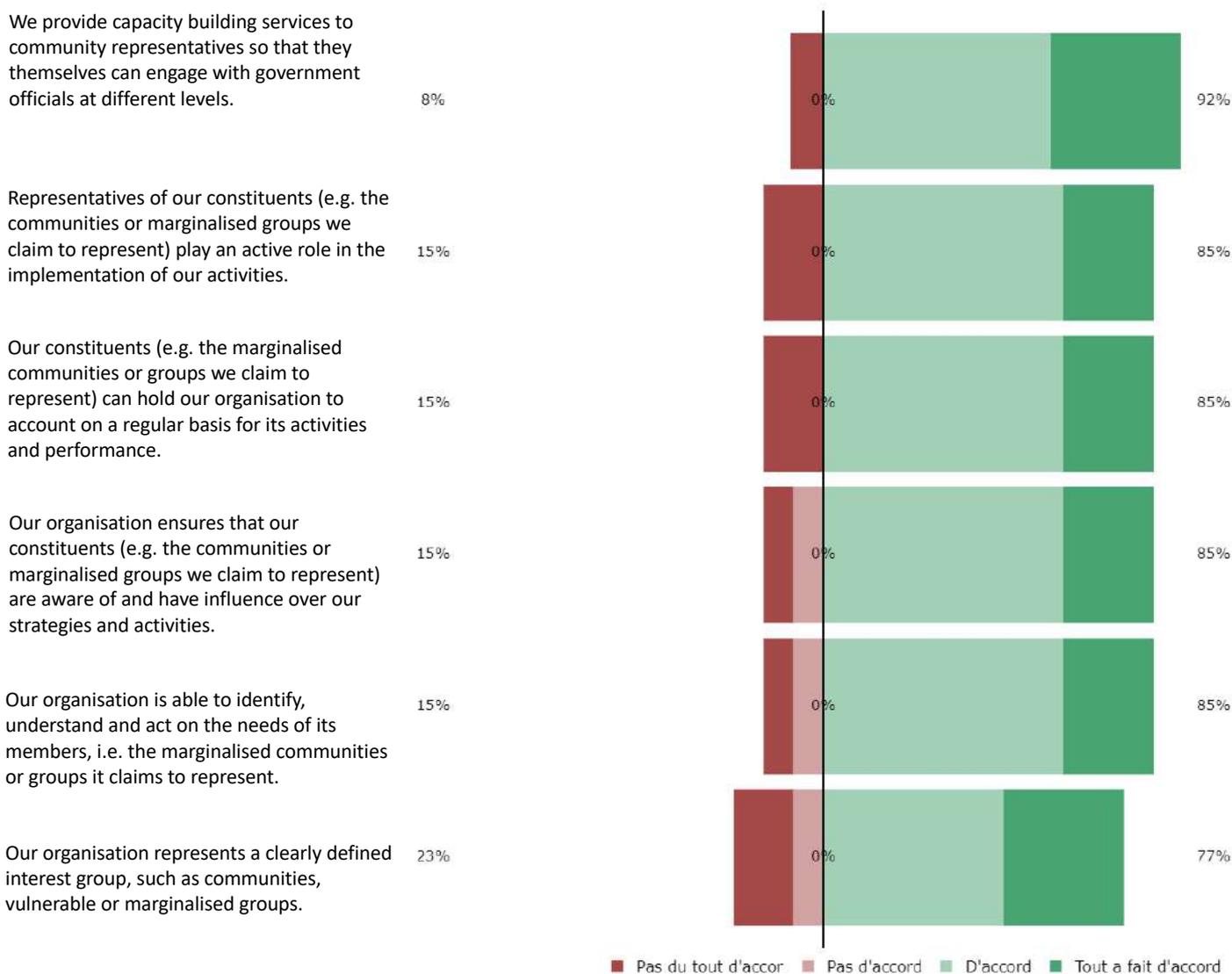
Capacité à établir des relations avec les parties prenantes externes



In general, little need for organisational capacity building was expressed in this area. Almost all Right2Grow Mali partners feel that they have strong capacities to build relationships with external stakeholders such as the government, other local CSOs, the community. Some of the partners have already worked in partnership in several programmes and have experience of working in consortia. The partners also mentioned that in general they have a good reputation and that other actors can rely on them.

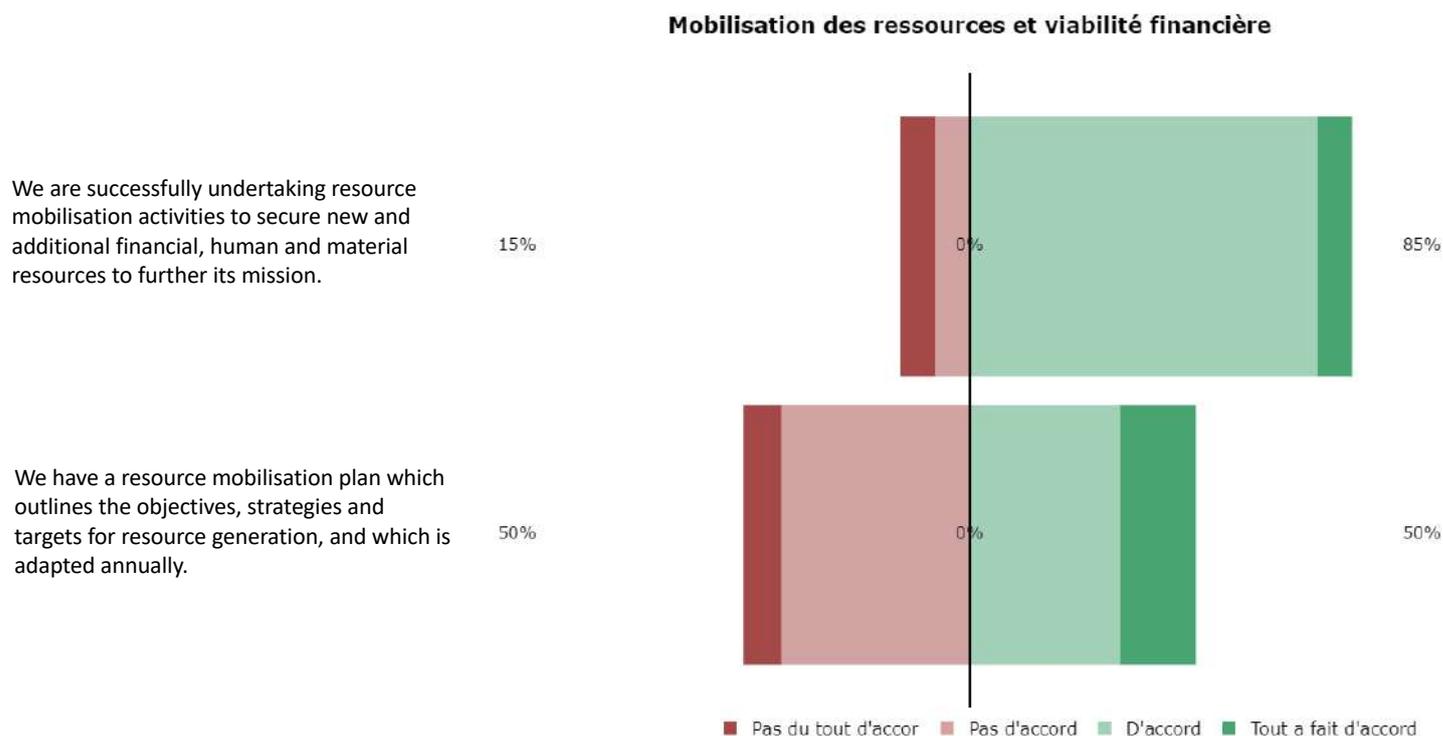
### 9. Establishment and legitimacy at grassroots level

#### Légitimité et ancrage au niveau de la base/niveau communautaire



The majority of partners consider their activities and interventions to be legitimate and well connected to the communities they claim to represent. Some organisations emphasised that communities are involved in the process of implementing activities from the diagnostic phase through to transition, implementation of activities and evaluations. However, some argue that there is still a need to strengthen the targeting of communities and vulnerable groups that are beneficiaries of their actions as well as to improve communication with them.

### 10. Resource mobilisation and sustainability



As in the other Right2Grow countries, in Mali too, the majority of organisations have expressed the need to strengthen their organisational capacity to mobilise financial resources. The needs vary from mobilising their own resources to meet the costs of running the headquarters, to developing a resource mobilisation plan that outlines objectives, strategies and targets for resource generation, adapted annually etc. Some organisations

rely on the Right2Grow project to provide expertise in fundraising, donor mobilisation, drafting and submitting calls for proposals and strengthening the management of donor contracts.

Based on the results presented below, it appears that the three emerging organizational development priorities for Right2Grow Mali are

1. Development of a clear and effective communication and/or advocacy strategy to accelerate progress towards organisational goals (54%)
2. Resource mobilisation, including the development of financial resource mobilisation strategy and plans (50%)
3. Strengthening relationships with different media channels to disseminate communication and advocacy messages (46%)



**Right2Grow inception report  
Theory of Change validation  
Mali**

This validation is the result of a reflection (held in the form of a strategic planning workshop from 17-21 January 2022 in Bamako, Mali) on the results of the baseline study and a joint analysis by all the national partners and the WASH, nutrition and other technical services on the original theory of change.

## 1. Overall validity

### Validity

The Baseline confirmed the relevance of the overall objective and results. There is a civil society and a local private sector involved in awareness raising and service provision, but with little consultation and synergy between the two for the improvement of services. These two categories of actors participate in decision-making frameworks but mainly through their leaders. This weak participation partly explains the persistence of obstacles such as the quality of malnutrition management, difficult access to food, the price of water, the inability to repair broken water points and poor hygiene practices. The weak capacity of CSOs, particularly in advocacy, including budgeting and gender mainstreaming, does not allow them to organise communities to work with the private sector. CSOs are not very active in influencing laws but are very involved in influencing public policies and programmes. The shares of budgets devoted to WASH and nutrition are far from international commitments. Mali has a multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2021-2025 that includes a WASH component through a dynamic multi-stakeholder process (development and humanitarian actors).

### Ultimate goal and impact

Right2Grow's ultimate goal is for **every child to reach their full potential**. The long-term impact (not measured by the Right2Grow evaluation) is that **all children under five are well-nourished**. The medium-term impact is that **policy makers jointly and effectively address undernutrition in a multi-sectoral, gender-sensitive and inclusive manner**.

The **main decision makers** identified for this impact are

Structures	Roles
Embassy of the Netherlands in Mali	Support to the involvement of other partners of the Embassy in the activities of Right2Grow Mali, Support to the synergy of actions with other NGOs/CSOs partners of the Embassy, Involvement in complementary activities to Right2Grow. The Embassy is a member of the national strategic steering committee of Right2Grow.
Ministries (Water, Environment, Sanitation, Sustainable Development, Health/Nutrition ;	Coordinates the development and implementation of sectoral policies in line with the Framework for Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD) with the support of the Prime Minister. They hold sectoral budget lines.

National Directorate/General of sectoral ministries (health, WASH)	Policy development and implementation, Support for the integration of WASH with other sectors, Sector coordination, Advisory support to civil society and communal authorities
	Directorate General of Health and Public Hygiene and its sub-directorate of hygiene and nutrition. It is the focal point of the Nutrition Technical Group, which brings together all nutrition actors (humanitarian and development). It steers the development, implementation and revision of the national nutrition policy.
	National Water Directorate: Dialogue on WASH sector funding and National SWA Focal Point
WASH and Nutrition Journalist Networks/ Local press, traditional communicators and journalist network	Provides behaviour change communication and social mobilisation and campaigns
	Support to Right2Grow in citizen mobilisation and advocacy targeting decision makers. Networks through field trips and productions produce evidence shared in publications
NGOs and local associations / Community-based organisations	Field staff with local experience and expertise
	Contributes to sustainability
	Community organisations are to be organised into citizen watch groups, which will be strengthened for social mobilisation, citizen monitoring and technical and budgetary advocacy at communal, local, regional and national levels.
International NGOs	Alliance, networking,
	Exchange of best practices, contribution to TrackFin WASH, SUN, SWA process
Nutrition Champions of the SUN Movement	Influential public and private actors supporting mobilisation
Technical and Financial Partners	UNICEF, CANADA, USAID, WFP, Belgian Cooperation:
	- Preferred partners for advocacy in nutrition. These are both in the SUN donors and the SWA Committee and the WASH TFP Thematic Group.
	- Financial Resource Mobilization Nutrition and WASH, Food Security, Climate Change
	- Civil Society Strengthening, Gender, Government Influence Synergy of actions Carrying messages
	- Belgian Cooperation/ ENABEL: Lead TFP: Holding of TFP Thematic Group meetings in the water and sanitation sector
	- mobilising financial resources for nutrition through innovative mechanisms such as GFF and the UNITELIFE initiative
National and local private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To contribute to the reduction of disparities in access to drinking water through investments in rural areas.</li> <li>Launch of the first UDUMA project works in the Sikasso region (300 works in service).</li> <li>Strengthening the PPP for the management of the public service delegation</li> <li>Local businesses/private sector involved in nutrition, food security and WASH/EPHA to be strengthened for the delivery of accessible nutrition and WASH services and products (business plan, marketing) for children under 5.</li> </ul>

Learning and research institutes	Conducting research on the quantitative and qualitative availability of water resources, and producing scientific information in relation to climate change and social demand.
National implementing NGOs/CSOs	All the NGOs and CSOs are already working on interventions related to our results, notably in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)/nutrition/food security, the promotion of human rights, local, national and regional advocacy, community mobilisation, gender, support to women's groups, adaptation to climate change, peace promotion CN-CIEPA will support NGOs in the regions in WASH monitoring and advocacy at the local and national level while monitoring country commitments to the SWA initiative; Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie (AJCAD) will take care of the virtual sensitization of actors in Bamako, notably through social networks, the WEB nutrition/WASH platform of Right2Grow and will ensure that young people are taken into account in the advocacy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Malian Association for Community Development (AMADECOM)</li> <li>• MALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT "STOP-SAHEL</li> <li>• National Coalition of the International Campaign for Water and Sanitation (CN-CIEPA)</li> <li>• Youth Association for Active Citizenship and Democracy (AJCAD)</li> <li>• The Malian Children's Aid Society (OMAES)</li> <li>• The Budget Monitoring Group (BMG)</li> </ul>
CEGAA (Centre for Economic Governance and Accountability in Africa)	Support for the budget monitoring, analysis and advocacy process
Public administration (Governors, Prefects, Sub-prefects)	They chair the regional, local and communal committees for the orientation, coordination and monitoring of development actions (CROCSAD, CLOCSAD, CCOCSAD) respectively at the level of the regions, circles and communes (decree 095 /P RM of 21 February 2008); these are the framework par excellence for the analysis of the multisectoral nature of nutrition with a view to better implementation of the National Nutrition Policy throughout the country
Cellule de Coordination de la Nutrition au Mali	Coordinates the sector, is the national SUN and Food Systems focal point
Sector Planning and Statistics Unit (CPS-SEEUDE)	Sector reviews and consultation framework, the conduct of the TrackFin process and the production of the GLAAS country report. It is also central to the implementation of the SWA initiative in Mali.
GSANs and Community Relays	Ensures community mobilisation on nutrition and WASH

Intersectoral Technical Committee on Nutrition (ITNC) (national nutrition development committee.	The composition of the CTIN is representative of all ministerial departments and is chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Health. It will be responsible for (i) promote the coordination and harmonisation of the various annual sectoral plans and ensure the complementarity of the means implemented; (ii) draw up the intersectoral strategic plan for nutrition; (iii) monitor the implementation of the sectoral action plans; (iv) play the role of a nutrition observatory through the (v) give a technical opinion on any document requiring the approval of the NCC; (vi) prepare a six-monthly report on the implementation of the policy, publication of the evolution of indicators; prepare the various meetings of the NCC; the government, technical and financial partners, civil society organisations and the private sector at central level. It meets once every six months.
SUN Movement (Scaling Up Nutrition)	Technical and financial advocacy support
SWA Committee :	The committee under the leadership of the Government led the development of Mali's SWA commitments, through a national multi-stakeholder process aligned with the country's priorities. It is composed of the General Directorate of Budget, the National Directorate of Planning, the Research and Learning Institutes (ENI-ABT), Unicef Mali, WaterAid Mali, WHO, ENABEL, the SWA Focal Point of civil society, the Territorial Collectivities, the private sector (UDUMA Mali), the Network of Journalists on WASH, CPS/SEEUDE (coordination and GLAAS Focal Point, TRACKFIN). The use of the SWA Framework based on the Guiding Principles, Core Features, Collaborative Behaviour and Mutual Accountability Mechanism
The Prime Minister :	It is under the authority of the Prime Minister, who is responsible for the coherence of government action and who intervenes to set the government's priorities. The Prime Minister is the ultimate arbiter of budget negotiations between the managing ministers and the minister in charge of finance.
The Minister of Finance	The Minister of Finance leads the budget negotiations with the other state administrations. As the only minister with a global vision of public finance, he is responsible for the synthesis of the finance bill. He is the sole architect of the revenue forecast.
The managing ministers	Once the amount of the budget envelopes has been devolved, the managing ministers become "their own finance minister": intra-sectoral distribution.
The National Assembly	The draft budget is submitted to the National Assembly at the opening of the session preceding the budgetary period, for its analysis and vote. The National Assembly exercises control over the implementation of the budget on the ground
The Mayor/Municipal Council	Mobilises and distributes local resources and implements resources transferred from the state in the nutrition and WASH sectors. The Mayor is responsible for the involvement of communities in the budget process at the communal level

## 2. Path 1 - Community Mobilization

### Validity

Outcome 1 is: **Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners.**

Communities already participate in the accountability spaces and can therefore make their demands for improvement in general while the demand spaces are being used by communities at the communal level. At the moment, it is community leaders who participate in the accountability spaces and not ordinary vulnerable people. The main obstacles dealt with are related to the effectiveness of the management of cases of malnutrition, the low level of community mobilisation, soaring food prices and poor knowledge of good hygiene practices. No stakeholder illustrated successful joint initiatives to overcome these obstacles, hence the need for a mechanism to motivate community actors to support nutrition and hygiene/sanitation and to strengthen women's participation in decision making.

### Adaptation and specification

This outcome incorporates the establishment of a citizen's watch mechanism, including watch committees whose members will come from community organisations and the local private sector. Participation criteria for these committees will take into account ratios of women and youth. The reports that will be produced as a result of the capacity building of community organisations and the private sector in the presence of vulnerable people will be discussed in the multi-sectoral frameworks provided for in the decentralisation law. Right2Grow is committed as a model for measuring the performance of the multi-sectoral nutrition action plan.

## 3. Path 2 - Strengthening civil society organisations

### Validity

Outcome 2 is: **Representative and empowered civil society organisations (CSOs) effectively navigate the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition and poor WASH conditions**

CSOs at the local level are not used to carrying out advocacy initiatives. At the national level there are on average 2 per year. This suggests that CSOs need to have a clear mapping of advocacy opportunities and clearly defined messages to carry out their own advocacy initiatives. All the structures interviewed have participated in at least one advocacy initiative on gender in general. They have rarely initiated gender-sensitive advocacy on WASH and nutrition, although the need for training was repeatedly identified during this study. Five CSO/NGO members of Right2Grow report having already initiated advocacy and lobbying activities; this illustrates that they have a basis in this area but need to be capacitated and have communication and advocacy strategies, financial resource mobilisation as well as gender mainstreaming in nutrition and wash, child protection and monitoring and evaluation on women and youth involvement in programme implementation.

### Adaptation and specification

Civil society organisations are strong on awareness raising and weak on advocacy. The focus will be on advocacy capacity and gender. A gender analysis will be conducted and advocacy and communications

strategies will be developed for national advocacy. CSOs will support CBOs and private sector watchdog groups to have dynamic communal advocacy plans for evidence-based change. Documentation of success stories and mutual learning are central to strengthening throughout the programme.

## 4. Path 3 - Engaging public authorities

### Validity

Outcome 3 is: **The national government and decentralised entities adopt and integrate an integrated and multisectoral approach to undernutrition into policies, action plans and budget allocations.**

None of the organisations approached confided that they had proposed a law. However, in terms of policies and certain laws, some NGOs/CSOs have been active for years, particularly in participating in the process of revising national policies to adapt them to the Sustainable Development Goals (food and nutrition security, water and sanitation, the water code, the multisectoral nutrition action plan). Communal budgets do not explicitly show Nutrition and WASH lines due to the communal budget nomenclature which does not allow tracking. At the national level, Mali devotes 0.7% (2019) of its overall health budget to nutrition and 3.62% (2020) of the state budget to WASH.

### Adaptation and specification

Analysis of policies, public programmes and budgets will be a priority. Tools will be designed for this purpose and CSOs and community-based organisations will be trained in their use to provide evidence for discussion with the Ministry of Finance and parliamentarians. The budgetary nomenclature of the communes does not allow for easy reading of WASH and Nutrition expenditure. Civil society with the support of CEGAA will put in place special tools to track WASH and Nutrition forecasts and expenditure in communes for analysis in order to advocate for increased public funding in both sectors.

## 5. Path 4 - Mobilising international development actors

### Validity

Outcome 4 is: Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition

Civil society has been very active in advocating for membership of the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism and advocating for commitments at the Nutrition for Growth forum. It is active in clusters and working groups on humanitarian but also development and the SUN movement with a good track record of communication with donors. Many stakeholders and donors are in favour of the integration of Wash in Nutrition such as UNICEF, SIDA, USAID, Canada. In addition, the new Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2021-2025 integrates a WASH axis and takes into account gender mainstreaming. The country also has a national WASH and Nutrition strategy.

### Adaptation and specification

The partnership between SWA (sanitation and water for all) and SUN (scaling up nutrition). Citizen monitoring of SWA's Nutrition for Growth and Mutual Accountability Mechanism commitments and the implementation of the Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan, will allow for effective input into joint cluster

analysis/advocacy notes, working groups and major humanitarian and development donor forums. The Dutch Embassy will be encouraged to strengthen its participation in the SWA framework and the SUN.

## 6. Reflection

### Priorities

The following are the main priorities of the Righ2Grow partners after assessing the validity of the different paths.

- Implementation of the citizen watch system: data collection by citizens, budget monitoring and analysis, municipal and local advocacy
- Development and implementation of advocacy (technical and budgetary) and communication strategies
- Acceleration of learning and capacity building activities
- Monitoring international nutrition and WASH commitments
- Animation of the WASH and nutrition web platform
- Implementation of a local research project
- Full implementation of the governance structure with involvement of youth and women's organisations in all bodies

### Stakeholder engagement

- Strengthening the partnership between the SUN and SWA movements in Mali through joint advocacy action plans
- Strengthening synergy of actions with other international and national NGOs specialising in WASH and nutrition for greater effectiveness
- Valorisation of existing platforms working on multisectoral nutrition
- Strong involvement of the media and networks of WASH and nutrition journalists
- Promotion of new nutrition and WASH champions at community level
- Strengthening collaboration with the research community and universities
- Promoting local research to inform advocacy
- Invitation of the Embassy to the Strategic Steering Committee sessions

### Future adaptation

The theory of change can be adapted in the future on the basis of the following experiences.

- Organisation of joint field missions
- Involvement of other Embassy partners in Right2Grow Mali activities
- Advocacy with the Embassy for its involvement in SWA activities and the SUN donors

## Appendix: Theory of Change



**Tous les enfants de moins de 5 ans sont bien nourris**

Impact à long terme

**Les décideurs luttent conjointement et efficacement contre la sous-nutrition d'une manière multisectorielle, sensible au genre et inclusive**

Impact à moyen terme

**I. Les communautés demandent et investissent dans les services sociaux de base et adoptent les bonnes pratiques en matière de nutrition et de WASH, en s'attaquant aux obstacles conjointement avec les partenaires du secteur privé**

**II. Les organisations de la société civile (OSC) représentatives et dotées de moyens d'action opèrent efficacement en matière de nutrition et d'EHA dans le plaidoyer en faveur du leadership et de la bonne gouvernance afin de prévenir la sous-nutrition**

**III. Le gouvernement national, les parlementaires et les entités décentralisées adoptent et intègrent une approche intégrée et multisectorielle de la sous-nutrition dans les politiques, les plans d'action et les allocations budgétaires**

**IV : Les bailleurs les acteurs internationaux du développement coordonnent et collaborent dans le cadre de la relation entre l'aide humanitaire et le développement afin de s'attaquer aux causes sous-jacentes de la sous-alimentation**

Outcomes

**A. Les communautés sont conscientes des petites actions réalisables et les mettent en pratiques**

**B. Les communautés ont accès à des services nutritionnels et d'EHA abordables**

**C. Les Organisations communautaires (OC), les OSC et les médias collaborent régulièrement avec les autorités locales en matière de programmation et de planification financière**

**D. Les OC, les OSC et les médias ont la légitimité et la capacité d'exprimer les préoccupations des personnes marginalisées et démunies.**

**E. Les enseignements tirés des parcours et des lacunes de mise en œuvre éclairent l'élaboration des politiques et des lois**

**F. Les mécanismes de coordination entre le gouvernement et la société civile, ainsi qu'entre différents secteurs (WASH-nutrition - sécurité alimentaire) contribuent à l'efficacité des programmes de WASH et nutrition - santé**

**G. Les acteurs internationaux participent aux mécanismes de coordination intersectorielle nationales et régionales, partagent les données et s'engagent dans une programmation conjointe.**

Outcome intermédiaires

**1. Les OSC mobilisent efficacement les communautés autour d'une meilleure nutrition et EHA et les sensibilisent à adopter des mesures anti Covid-19**

**2. Le secteur privé développe des modèles commerciaux, des services et des produits innovants**

**3. Les OC, les OSC et les Médias ont des compétences techniques nécessaires pour suivre, analyser et rendre compte des affectations et des dépenses ainsi que des politiques et stratégies sur le WASH, la nutrition et la sécurité alimentaire**

**4. Les OC et les OSC élargissent leur champ d'action pour inclure les intérêts des plus vulnérables**

**5. Les communautés, les OC et les OSC recueillent des données et des expériences sur la qualité de la nutrition et la prestation de services EHA spécifique au contexte**

**6. La recherche sur le terrain génère des données probantes et des moyens innovants pour prévenir la sous nutrition et les mauvaises conditions WASH**

**7. Les OSC participent et contribuent au dynamisme des mécanismes de coordination entre le gouvernement et la société civile, ainsi qu'entre différents secteurs (WASH-nutrition - sécurité alimentaire-changement climatique)**

**8. Les partenaires de R2G, les OSC et les décideurs s'engagent dans des plateformes pour le partage des données, l'apprentissage par les pairs, l'adoption des bonnes pratiques de gouvernance et plaident ensemble auprès des bailleurs de fonds afin qu'ils alignent mieux leurs financements et la programmation sur les priorités du gouvernement et soutiennent les approches multisectorielles de la nutrition, telle que l'intégration avec les Changement climatiques.**

Outputs

Domaines principaux d'interventions

WASH

Sécurité Alimentaire & Nutrition

Stratégies canalisatrices pour la création de solutions durables à long terme

Égalité des sexes et inclusion

Appropriation par les organisations locales

Approches adaptatives et innovantes

Intégrer l'impact de COVID-19

## Results framework: MALI

<i>Basket indicator (if any)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>	<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>	<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target - qualitative</i>
<b><i>Result I. Communities demand and invest in basic social services and adopt good nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene practices, jointly addressing barriers with private sector partners.</i></b>						
<b>SCS 4</b>	1.1: Number of (advocacy) actions in which communities make demands for improved services (WASH and nutrition)	96	<b>Findings: 4 spaces for formulating requests used by communities at the communal level.</b> The communities participate in the session on the administrative account, the session on the additional budget, the session on the setting of taxes and fees, the session on the primitive budget. They are invited by the town hall	120	840	07 Participation of communities in the sessions per commune in 24 communes: the administrative account, the session on setting taxes and fees, 2 budget sessions, 2 CCOCSAD sessions, 1 presentation of the citizen's report, revision of the PDSEC

<i>Basket indicator (if any)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>	<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>	<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target - qualitative</i>
-	1.2 Proportion of people from vulnerable or marginalised groups (women, people with disabilities, ethnic minority groups...) involved in actions to make demands for improvement (WASH and nutrition).	0	<p>According to the results of this study, it is community leaders who participate in accountability spaces and not vulnerable people. Town halls usually invite those who can mobilise the community and make decisions.</p> <hr/> <p>Conclusion: Vulnerable people do not participate in accountability spaces.</p>	20%	30%	Of the participants in the application process for improved WASH and nutrition services, 30% of applicants will be women and youth.

<i>Basket indicator (if any)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>	<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>	<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target - qualitative</i>
-	1.3 Proportion of targeted barriers to good nutrition and/or WASH services successfully addressed by joint community and/or private sector initiatives.	0	The major barriers that can be targeted by the project are institutional and structural barriers. To some extent, social barriers as awareness raising can take into account a better involvement of men.	20%	60%	The major obstacles will be : 1. Functioning of the GSAN, ASACO within the framework of the management of malnourished cases (Boulabé Circle - Kayes Region) ; 2. Soaring food prices during the lean season: Lack of organisation/post-harvest management and non-compliance with price control measures. 3. Lack of capacity and leadership of the National Nutrition Council (NNC); 4. Lack of coordination between the SUN and SWA; 5. Low knowledge of essential hygiene practices ; 6. Frequent break in water supply. 7. The burden of nutrition and washing rests almost entirely on women;

<i>Basket indicator (if any)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>	<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>	<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target - qualitative</i>
<b><i>Intermediate outcome C. Community and civil society organisations regularly engage with local government in programming and financial planning.</i></b>						
-	C1. # of CSOs and CSOs consulted in programming and budgeting exercises (multi-annual)	0	No formal CSO structures consulted	12	30	All 24 CVCs and NGOs/CSOs consulted during the communal budget processes
-	C.3 Number of CSOs/NGOs that have developed and implemented integrated advocacy strategies on nutrition and water and sanitation.	0	None	6	32	All 24 CVCs and Right2Grow NGOs/CSOs have regional and communal advocacy plans
<b><i>Intermediate outcome D. Community and civil society organisations have the legitimacy and capacity to voice the concerns of marginalised and disempowered people.</i></b>						
SCS 5	D1. Number of CSOs/NGOs with increased L&A capacity (SCS 5)	5	AJCAD, OMAES/SUN-OSC, CN CIEPA/SWA	8	18	8 Right2Grow
						8 other CSOs in the regions
						2 journalist networks

<i>Basket indicator (if any)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>	<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>	<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target - qualitative</i>
<b><i>Outcome II. Representative and empowered civil society organisations (CSOs) effectively navigate the civic space to advocate for leadership and good governance to prevent undernutrition.</i></b>						
-	2.1 Number of times CSOs have managed to create space for their demands and positions. (by setting the agenda, influencing the debate and/or creating space for engagement)	2	Most of the actions in which CSOs participate are initiatives with agendas set by policy makers	<b>40 Spaces</b>	198	24 (17 boroughs so 17 CCOCSAD instead of 24, 8 (6 instead of 8), 2 CLOCSAD platform meetings, 4 World Days, 1 national EID, 4 SWA Committee meetings, 2 NITC meetings, 4 CROCSAD, 1 Watch report sharing, 1 press conferences, 1 parliamentary advocacy, electoral advocacy
-	2.3 Proportion of CSO-led advocacy initiatives (for, by or with their members/constitutions ) addressing gender issues related to nutrition and WASH.	0		44%	57%	Per year: 9 CCOCSADs, 6 CLOCSADs, 4 World Days, 1 CTIN meeting, 1 Citizen's Watch report sharing, 5 NTFs, 2 SUN Donor sessions  2025 115 spaces of 202  2022 <b>19 Spaces /43</b> 9 CCOCSAD, 6 CLOCSAD, 4 World Days, 1 CTIN meeting, 1 Citizen's Watch report sharing
	<i>Indicators</i>		<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>			<i>Target - qualitative</i>

<i>Basket indicator (if any)</i>		<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>		<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	
<b>Intermediate outcome D. Community and civil society organisations have the legitimacy and capacity to voice the concerns of marginalised and disempowered people.</b>						
SCS 5	D1 Number of CSOs with increased L&A capacity	5	AJCAD, OMAES, CN CIEPA	8	8	8 Right2Grow
SCS 6	D 2Number of CSOs participating in the programme	5	AJCAD, OMAES, CN CIEPA	8	18	8 Right2Grow; other8 CSOs in the regions; 2 journalist networks
	<b>Indicators</b>	<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>	<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>	<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target - qualitative</i>

<i>Basket indicator (if any)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>	<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>	<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target - qualitative</i>
<b>Result III. National government and decentralised entities adopt and integrate an integrated and multi-spectrum approach to undernutrition into policies, action plans and budget allocations through participatory CSO processes.</b>						
<b>SCS 1+2</b>	3.2 Number of laws, policies, norms/attitudes and decisions blocked, adopted, improved at national, regional, communal and local level for sustainable and inclusive development .	4	National water policy and multisectoral nutrition action plan, water code, national sanitation policy	2	10	1 finalisation of the multisectoral nutrition action plan, 1 national nutrition policy, 1 law on internally displaced persons, 10 communal development plans (PDESC), 2 policy adoption of national water and sanitation policies, (local decisions in favour of nutrition and wash, )
-	3.3 Percentage of public budgets allocated and implemented for nutrition and WASH services (increased funding)	WASH: 3.62% in 2020  Nutrition: less than 0.7% of the health budget in 2018	Advocacy in the context of SUN and SWA	WASH: 3.7% in 2022  Nutrition: 0.9%.	WASH 4% in 2025  Nutrition: 1.5%, i.e. an increase of 0.2%/year	This budget advocacy will be conducted at the level of the 24 communes and at the national level using the SWA committee and the SUN movement. Election periods will be used as well as parliamentary advocacy and partnership with WASH/Nutrition journalist networks.

<i>Basket indicator (if any)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>	<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>	<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target - qualitative</i>
<b>Result IV. Donors and international development actors coordinate and collaborate within the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition.</b>						
-	4.1 Level of success of lobbying and advocacy roles of R2G and its partners with donors and international actors	2	Advocacy in the context of SUN and SWA	Medium	Good	Integration of nutrition and WASH in 10 new CFSPs, functional SWA Committee, satisfactory level of implementation of SWA and N4G commitments, political adoption of the new NMAP, political adoption of the 2 new national policies (water and sanitation), consultations of the CVCs of the 24 communes during the annual budgetary processes, functionality of 3 regional multisectoral consultation frameworks on nutrition and WASH
-	4.2 Extent to which donors are integrating the WASH-Nutrition nexus as part of the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of undernutrition.	Low	Adoption of a National WASH and Nutrition Strategy	Medium	Good	2 Joint Communiqués, 8 WG WASH and Nutrition meetings, 8 NITC meetings  2025: 18  2022: 1 Joint Communiqué, 2 WG WASH and Nutrition meetings, 2 NITC meetings

<i>Basket indicator (if any)</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Reference value - quantitative</i>	<i>Reference value - qualitative</i>	<i>Target year 2 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target year 5 - quantitative</i>	<i>Target - qualitative</i>
<b><i>Intermediate outcome G. International actors participate in cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, share data and engage in joint programming.</i></b>						
-	G1 # of meetings involving multi-sectoral coordination between humanitarian and development actors and donors on WASH and nutrition to share experiences and strengthen the evidence base	5	2 NTFs (nutrition and WASH)	6 NTFs (nutrition and WASH)	36	24 NTFs (nutrition and WASH)
			1 Annual multisectoral nutrition review CLUSTERS, WASH, Nutrition, SAM,	1 Annual multi-sectoral nutrition review		4 Multisectoral Annual Review Nutrition
			2 CTINS	2 CTINS		8 CTIN