

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Initiative 166: MDG SCALE UP IN MALI

What is the Initiative 166 Project?

The project Initiative 166 is a bold, innovative and provocative plan of the government of Mali to localize the MDGs in the 166 most vulnerable communes of the National Food Security Program (NFSP). It was first presented to the donors at the Round Table of Donors held in Bamako on 12 and 13 June 2008. It is a multi-sectoral program developed under the leadership of President Toumani Toure who is deeply inspired by the success of the approach of the Millennium Villages in Tiby and Toya. The goal of the project is to accelerate the attainment of the MDGs in these 166 communes through the implementation of actions based on the identification of the needs of the affected 2 million people. It was accepted by development partners as a first step in the implementation of the Plan to achieve the MDGs overall in Mali. The partners have affirmed their commitment to support the initiative while recommending a more detailed analysis of certain issues in order to finalize the project document for the next thematic consultations.

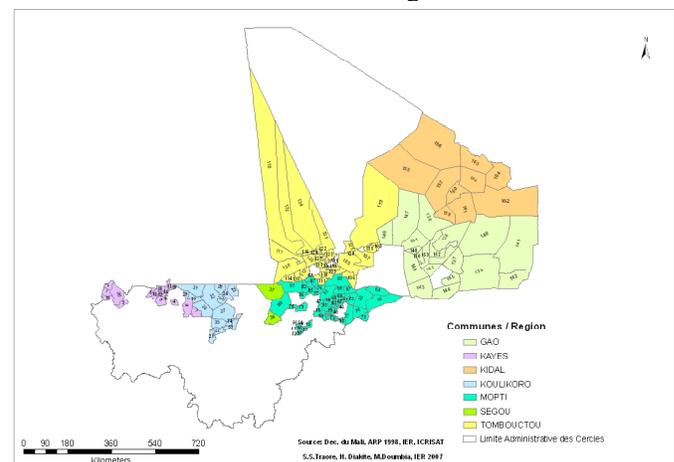
The 166 Communes

The 166 communes correspond to 23.6% of all 703 communes, with an estimated population of 2.07 million people, or 15.4% of the total population of Mali (estimated at 13.42 million in 2006). Of the 2.07 million people, Mopti obtains the largest share with 38%, while that of Timbouctou, Koulikoro, Gao and Kayes' is similar, at between 13% and 16% each. Kidal and Segou each hold 2%. The proportion of food insecure communes for each of the different regions is very different. Whereas in Segou only 2% of communes are food insecure, in Kayes and Koulikoro it rises to 14%. The percentage increases to 56% of all communes in Mopti, in Timbouctou to 75%, in Gao to 83%, and in Kidal to 100%.

The incidence of poverty varies starkly among the regions. Highest poverty levels were recorded in the northern regions, led by Kidal with 93%, and followed by Gao, Timbouctou and Mopti with 79%, 77%, and 76% respectively. Segou, Kayes and Koulikoro showed lower poverty rates ranging between 60% and 68% (PRSP1, 1998).

Areas of Focus

The commune being the smallest administrative unit is the cornerstone of Mali's decentralized governance reforms.



Map of 166 Communes

Therefore, the “bottom up” and multi-sector approach of the Initiative 166 will promote at the grassroots (commune) level the principle of ownership by the beneficiary populations. It is based on the national decentralization mechanism for which the commune is the basic development planning unit, through local economic, social and cultural development plans (PDESC). By operationalizing the framework for MDG-based PDESCs, the Initiative will make it possible to achieve the results of food security and poverty reduction.

The Initiative 166 needs to produce results over a period of five years and in accordance with national systems and procedures. It aims at making significant progress in the following four sectors within the rural community: agriculture. Education, health, water and sanitation, and infrastructure.

Agriculture

Food security will be achieved through water control, management of soil fertility, intensification of plant production systems, diversification of production, intensification of stockbreeding, improvement of

processing, development of the marketing of agricultural products. This will be linked to education through school meals programs.

Education

To achieve universal education in the intervention area, the activities will focus on 1st and 2nd cycles of basic and non-formal education. The interventions will focus not only on improving infrastructure, but especially on building capacity, by recruiting and training teachers, and involving the community in the support of the schools. Construction of classrooms, literacy centers, and creation of school canteens in the most disadvantaged areas are ways to improve the education sector and enable all boys and girls to complete a course of primary schooling.

Health

Priority will be given to maternal and child health, as well as control of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. In addition to the construction of community health centers, another objective will be to train and ensure availability of qualified personnel in all these centers particularly in disadvantaged areas. Emphasis will be laid on the operationalization of the transfer of areas of competence from the Government to the Local Authorities and enhancement of the participation of communities in solving health problems.

Water and Sanitation

In partnership with the communes, the technical services and national programs, the initiative will promote significant interventions in the area of drinking water supply. These will include the construction of boreholes, the establishment of a water distribution network, and the construction of improved wells for inaccessible villages. As regards sanitation, the initiative will facilitate access to improved latrines. It will draw on the experience of pre-existing programs and projects, and work in cooperation with the National Office for Water Supply (DNH). To make the activities sustainable, the project will sensitize and educate the grassroots populations on public hygiene and the management of solid waste and sanitation, with the support of the National Sanitation and Pollution and Nuisance Control.

Infrastructure

In the energy sector, the initiative will work in cooperation with the decentralized Government services and the Malian Electric Energy Development and Rural Electrification Agency (AMADER) to prepare village electrification plans and extend the electricity network. Efforts will be made to broaden access to sources of energy in schools and health centers which are not currently covered by the electricity network. Activities will also seek to extend access to modern fuels (GPL cooking gas), as well as increasing availability of

improved biomass and its clean use.

Scoping Mission

A scoping mission was undertaken to Mali from Feb. 2nd to Feb. 8th, 2009. The mission brought together eight institutions (UNDP, UNCDF, UNV, FAO, UNICEF, EI, MP, and Open Society Institute (the George Soros foundation)) showing the strong and broad existing support for the initiative. The mission achieved two important outcomes: a clear set of recommendations on UN country support, a sketch of the institutional arrangement, and a framework for resource mobilizations. Some specific recommendations are as follows:

1. Provide institutional anchorage at the Prime Minister level with the CSA playing the role of the permanent secretariat of the initiative
2. Establish a technical unit for providing technical advice about the “Millennium Village” model to be responsible for direct support to the communes;
3. Define more clearly the role of sector ministries in the framework of Initiative 166;
4. Extending the mechanism and expand the platform for coordination of the initiative to effectively integrate the planning officials of different ministries, the private sector, international partners and civil society;
5. Establish and strengthen mechanisms for consultation between the various actors and coordination of the initiative;
6. Establish among others, a trust fund to be financed by international donors, partners from civil society, the Malian Diaspora etc. This fund should be used to input supply, strengthen local institutions to support reform efforts and creating the capacity for service delivery at local

