



Social Security Nets Programs: AECID joins Hands with ECOWAS for More Tangible Results



Most West African Countries have not yet gained enough experience in the implementation of social security nets programs aligning with national social protection strategies or policies. Based on this reality, ECOWAS has initiated as part of its common Agricultural Policy, the Regional Program to Support National Social Security Nets in West Africa – PRAFNSS – with the main objective to support its Member States in their efforts to develop and implement social security nets projects.

This initiative will strengthen national institutional frameworks for social security nets management to consider larger scale programs.

This vision by ECOWAS, has attracted some Development Partners, notably the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID) who decided to back up the efforts of ECOWAS to better support the vulnerable populations.

«AECID has granted ECOWAS with about 5 Million USD. This thematic fund aims to complement the efforts of the States and their partners in the region in order to enhance the resilience of the vulnerable populations», Mr. Gabriel Villarubia, AECID Technical Assistant to RAAF explains.

Through its Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF), ECOWAS wishes to co-finance 10 innovative projects on social security nets selected following a first call for proposals launched on January 20, 2015. The launching workshop for these innovative projects that opened in Lomé, Togo, on March 9, 2016 constitutes a concrete demonstration of this collaboration.

«The 10 projects that we launched this morning for a period not exceeding 24 months are the result of a first call for proposals, which means that there will be a second call in the coming months. These projects are implemented by Non-Governmental Actors, international NGOs, national and local federations, associations and organizations of producers, livestock breeders and agro-industry, associations of rural women as well as by local Authorities. The projects are also meant to strengthen the countries capacities in the development and implementation of social security nets programs», Mr. Ousseini Salifou, Executive Director of RAAF, says.

The final beneficiaries of the program are first and foremost the most vulnerable populations targeted by the social security nets implemented in line with the co-funding program, and at a larger scale in the future, the entire vulnerable populations who will benefit from national policies and programs implemented in the region.

Capacities of projects promoters of this first call for proposals will be strengthened throughout the workshop. More specifically, exchanges with RAAF Experts will improve participants' knowledge on social security nets. They will also discuss on project financial execution according to ECOWAS norms as well as project implementation modalities and procedures. The activity planning of each project will be updated, follow-up schedule as well as indicators validated and the reporting template shared.

«For us project promoters, this initiative by RAAF constitutes already a major step towards securing vulnerable populations in the sense that it will strengthen their livelihoods. We promise to do our best to make sure that the resources given to us are used for the sole interest of the communities we serve», Mrs. Awa Diallo, Coordinator of APS NGO, Senegal, promises.

The implementation of these projects falls within the operationalization of the Sahel Strategy of ECOWAS and contributes to the implementation of the Global Alliance for Resilience under the guidelines of the Regional Program to Support the National Social Security Nets. These projects also take into account the Social Policy of the African Union which calls for the strengthening of social protection mechanisms, the fight against poverty and hunger, the creation of full employment and decent work opportunities for all, the improvement of access to education, care and health facilities, the promotion of gender equality and the involvement of the most vulnerable groups in key development activities. -----

Background to the selection process and list of selected projects

As part of the support to the ECOWAS common Agricultural Policy, ECOWAP/CAADP, ECOWAS signed with AECID on March 28, 2014, a Memorandum of 5 Million USD. This support aims to contribute in the funding of Strategic Objective No3 of the Regional Agricultural Investment Plan, meaning the reduction of the vulnerability and the promotion of sustainable access of populations to food.

Prepared with the technical support of FAO in the framework of the FAO-ECOWAS project “Strengthening ECOWAS capacities for the implementation of ECOWAP”, the first call for social project proposals was launched on January 20, 2015. The objective of this call was to focus the interventions on countries under increased food vulnerability with the highest child malnutrition prevalence rates. A total amount of 2.2 Million USD was mobilized for this call that enabled to select the 10 innovative projects launched today March 9, 2016.

In total, 133 proposals were received but only 36 were assessed satisfactory for the last step of the evaluation phase that consisted in the review of the detailed proposals.

This review ended with the selection of 14 proposals of which 4 were put on the waiting list. The 10 projects listed below were finally selected following the no-objection notice received from AECID on February 10, 2016.

List of the 10 projects selected

Project Name	Total cost of the project in USD	Grant awarded in USD	Project promoters	Intervention countries
Projet d'appui à la protection sociale par le ciblage pilote des personnes vulnérables et les filets sociaux sélectifs au Burkina Faso	221 512	200 000	Oxfam Burkina	Burkina Faso
Projet Intégré de Nutrition Communautaire et de Lutte contre la Pauvreté au Benin	199 536	179 106	Afric'Mutualité	Benin
Promotion de la résilience des populations à travers des systèmes de filets sociaux sensibles aux enfants dans la province du Soum, Burkina Faso	204 739	184 221	Save the Children	Burkina Faso
Stratégie Opérationnelle d'amélioration de la productivité des cultures à intérêt nutritionnel en Côte d'Ivoire	224 380	199 707	Helen Keller International (HKI)	Côte d'Ivoire
Protection du noyau de reproduction au profit des ménages agropasteurs pauvres dans la région du Sahel, Burkina Faso	225 000	200 000	Association pour la Gestion de l'Environnement et le Développement	Burkina Faso
Promotion d'un système intégré d'alimentation scolaire et d'agro écologie dans la région des savanes du Togo	258 324	190 755	CodeUtile	Togo
Contribution à l'alimentation des normes régionales en matière de conception de	330 000	297 000	Oxfam intermon	Régional : mali, Niger, Burkina Faso

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transferts sociaux pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.				
Projet d'appui à la conception de modèles de filets sociaux adaptés aux réalités de l'élevage pastoral (FISOREP)	431 807	300 000	Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM)	Régional: Bénin, Mali, Niger, Sénégal, Togo
Renforcement des filets sociaux dans le Département de Dagana à travers un projet pilote de promotion de la production locale, l'introduction de la moringa et le respect de l'environnement dans les cantines scolaires	220 000	198 000	Allianza Por La Solidaridad (APS)	Sénégal
Projet d'appui au redressement du pouvoir économique des Ménages (PRODEM)	220 000	198 000	Action en Faveur des Vulnérables (AFV)	Niger

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