

Inter-agency Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

Accelerating global actions for a world without
poverty: the experience of Mali

Dr Nango Dembele

MAP of MALI



Country Context

- Landlocked country in the heart of the Sahel;
- Two rivers cross Mali: the Niger River and the Senegal river;
- The primary sector employs 70% of the active population and represents around 35% of GDP;
- Serious crisis with a coup d'état in March 2012 and the occupation of North for almost a year by rebel and terrorist groups;
- Elected president in 2013 and signature of the Peace accord in June 2015;
- Despite the signing of Peace accord , Mali still faces a security crisis

Context (continued)

- Despite the difficult security situation, the Malian economy has shown some resiliency.
- Negative growth in 2012;
- 1.7% real GDP growth rate in 2013;
- 7.2% growth rate in 2014 due to 15% increase in agricultural production[
- Average 5% real GDP growth rate driven by a good performance in the agricultural sector

Trend in poverty and inequality

Characteristics of Malian Poor

- Live in rural areas and are mainly small farmers;
- Urban poor workers in the informal sector]
- Few farmers and urban poor don't have social protection schemes;
- Women are likely to be poorer than men;
- Women headed families are less poor than men headed families

Trend in poverty and inequality

(continued)

Poverty dynamics

- Progress in national poverty reduction from 2001 to 2011 (55.6% in 2001 to 47.7% in 2011) of 7.9% points;
- 2/3 of reduction due to economic growth and 1/3 to fall in inequality;
- Rural poverty dropped by 15.7% during the same period;
- Urban poverty (excluding Bamako) increased during the period by 19.1%;
- Poverty rate dropped in Bamako, the capital city by 6.9%

Trend in poverty and inequality

(continued)

Poverty dynamics

- National poverty rate dropped by 2.8% between 2011 and 2017;
- Rural poverty rate increased slightly by 2.5%, Urban by 14.8% and Bamako by 6%
- National rate dropped between 2001 and 2017 by 10.7, rural by 13.2%, urban by 4.3% and Bamako by 12.9%.

Changes in inequality

- 2001 to 2009, Gini index fell from 0.39 to 0.32;
- In 2011, the index increased to 0.42 and fell back to 0.35 in 2016;
- In 2016, rural was 0.29 and urban stood at 0.32

Poverty reduction programs

First Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (SNLP) in 1998 covering the period 1998-2002;

- **Objective:** *“Provide all Malians, and particularly the poorest, with a reasonable standard of living”;*
- **Critics:** *Strong emphasis on basic social services at the expense of economic growth-enhancing investments;*
- Second Poverty Reduction Paper (CNLP) in 2002 covering the period 2002-2006
- priority axes: (i) institutions, governance and participation,
(ii) human development and access to social services; and
(iii) infrastructure and the productive sectors.

Poverty reduction programs

(continued)

- Third Strategy: (CSCRП) covering the period 2007 – 2011;
- Objective: reduce poverty by 6% over 5-years through a growth rate of 7 % per year.
- Political and security crisis of 2012 and changes in priorities:
- Fourth Strategy CSCRП-2nd generation covering period 2012-2017
- Objective: *Reach the main targets of the MDGs by 2017*
- Priorities: (1) *Peace and security*; (2) *Macroeconomic stability*
- Fifth Strategy known as CREDD). Period 2017-2018

Social protection measures

- Malian government didn't initially consider safety nets as part of its overall poverty reduction strategy;
- 78% of Malians are not covered by any social protection measure;
- Budget allocation, moving from 0.5% of GDP on social protection measures in 2009 to about 3.3% of GDP in 2011;
- Main social protection measures:
 - school feeding programs,
 - universal subsidies (tax and duty exemptions),
 - transfer programs for nutrition,
 - cash transfers
 - food transfers.

Conclusion and The UN Third Decade for the Eradication of Poverty 2018-2027 in Mali

To implement the Agenda the government of Mali, focus its efforts on:

- Addressing the security and political crisis;
- Developing a more integrated and expanded social protection program;
- Initiating programs to address urban inequality;
- Promoting sustainable agriculture practices by redirecting the current input subsidy program toward improved agro-ecological practices;
- Implementing vigorous population policies to curb current population growth;
- Strengthening the capacity of the state to deliver basic public goods, social services and economic infrastructure