



Consolidation of Peace through Strengthening Social Cohesion and Improving Equitable Access to Natural Resources in the Border Areas of Guidimakha


October 2023



Duration

Length: **18 months**
Start Date: **24/09/2020**
End Date: **24/03/2022**

Budget

 TOTAL: **\$1,500,000**
WFP: **\$750,000**
FAO: **\$750,000**

Implementing Agencies



Partners

The Ministry of Rural Development
The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development
The Ministry of Hydraulics
The Food Safety Commission
Breeders' organizations
Territorial administration and decentralized technical services
Civil society organizations, particularly youth and women
Implementing national and international NGOs

CONTEXT

The Guidimakha region is in the southernmost region of Mauritania. Its capital is Sélibaby. Guidimakha is the country's leading agricultural region. It is also a region with a pastoral tradition and significant forestry resources, despite being landlocked, which has an impact on mobility and communication. Despite having one of the highest rainfall rates in the country, at 500 mm per year, the region is severely affected by climate shocks, which hinder economic growth and productivity.

The region borders the Assaba region to the north-east, Mali to the south-east, Senegal to the south-west, and Gorgol region to the west. Guidimakha is at risk of conflicts linked to increased pressure on natural resources exacerbated by transhumance dynamics, unequal access to resources by women, youth and marginalized communities, competition for the use of land and resources between resident breeders and/or transhumants and farmers, who compete for the occupation and exploitation of spaces. The recurrence of these conflicts in recent years, fueled by land conflicts linked to land ownership and discrimination in access to land; and frustrated youth with limited access to training and diversified opportunities, weakens the peaceful coexistence of communities.

OBJECTIVES

The project targeted the drivers of conflict by instituting more sustainable management and equitable access to natural resources, diversifying livelihoods, and strengthening conflict resolution and early warning mechanisms – further making them more inclusive of women and youth.

KEY IMPACT AND RESULTS

A total of 4,041 households (1,934 men and 2,107 women) benefited directly from the investments.

The community planning process (PCP) raised awareness and dialogue for conflict resolution, and improved management of natural resources and communities' knowledge of the various legal codes. The permanent social dialogue structures put in place successfully to manage conflict relating to access to arable land and the problem of animal straying.

In the border areas of Guidimakha, the restoration of 25 hectares of pastoral land degraded by innovative techniques has allowed the establishment of three new and diverse communities (Poular, Soninké, Hassania). High intensity labor

to build the dam brought together members of the Poular-Malinké-Hassania communities and contributed to social cohesion and inclusion.

The opening of 1,666 km of manual firebreaks enabled the fight against bushfires and preservation of agricultural, forestry, and pastoral resources.

In the five communes of the Karakoro Basin, in Guidimakha, including in neighboring Malian territory, solutions provided by the community reduced the straying of animals by 93%, a source of frequent disputes between herders and farmers.

The permanent social dialogue structures put in place successfully managed conflicts relating to access to arable land and the problem of animal straying. In the border areas of Guidimakha, the restoration of 25 hectares of pastoral land degraded by innovative techniques has allowed the establishment of three new and diverse communities (Poular-soninké-Hassania).

An early warning system with community focal points recorded and transferred crisis indicators at local and national levels. A mechanism analyzing transhumance data helped in the prevention of conflicts.

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Testimonial:

Jiddou Traoré, president of GRADD, March 2021, PAM/NGO workshop.

“The rehabilitation of the Guémou dam, makes it possible to give fields to farmers who tend to occupy the animal passage zone, and contributes to the reduction of tensions. »

Community resilience and youth and women's empowerment were also achieved thanks to dedicated investments for equitable and peaceful access to natural resources such as:

- ▶ Equipment of 15 pastoral wells and 5 agricultural wells with solar drainage system
- ▶ Development of 7 agricultural areas for market gardening
- ▶ Opening of 1,666 km of manual firebreaks was carried out to reduce risks of bushfires. Marking of 100 km of transhumance corridors
- ▶ Restoration of 25 ha of degraded pastoral land using innovative techniques
- ▶ Development of 7 agricultural areas for market gardening
- ▶ Rehabilitation of a water retention structure dominating an area of 25 ha
- ▶ Equipment of 2 drinking water boreholes and extension of 2.4 km of the water supply network
- ▶ Conduction of 10 participatory community planning: inclusive tool for community dialogue
- ▶ Establishment of 5 community clubs (DIMITRA club)