



# Final Report

ViMPlus Knowledge Sharing Event

December 12 to 13, 2023

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## List of acronyms

ACF	<i>Action contre la faim (Action Against Hunger)</i>
ANJE	<i>Alimentation du Nourrisson et du Jeune Enfant (Infant and Young Child Feeding)</i>
ASBC	<i>Agents de Santé à Base Communautaire (Community Health Workers)</i>
AUE	<i>Association des usagers de l'eau (Water Users Association)</i>
AV	<i>Accoucheuses Villageoises (Village midwives)</i>
BHA	Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance
CDCPI/ST-OAPH	<i>Offensive agropastorale et halieutique (Agropastoral and fishing initiative)</i>
CGCT	<i>Code général des collectivités territoriales (General Code of Local Authorities)</i>
CIPA	<i>Crédit d'investissement pour la production Agricole (Investment credit for agricultural production)</i>
COGES	<i>Comités de gestion (Management committees)</i>
COP	Chief of Party
CREN	<i>Centres de Récupération et d'Éducation Nutritionnelle (Recovery and Nutritional Education Centers)</i>
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSPS	<i>Centre de Santé et de Promotion Social (Health and Social Advancement Center)</i>
CVD	<i>Conseils villageois de développement (Village development councils)</i>
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DRS	<i>Districts régionaux sanitaires (Regional health districts)</i>
FDAP	<i>Fonds de Développement Agropastoral (Agropastoral Development Fund)</i>
GASPA	<i>Groupe d'Apprentissage et de Suivi des Pratiques d'ANJE (ANJE Learning and Practice Monitoring Group)</i>
GRC	Governance, risk and compliance
HDP	Humanitarian-development-peace Nexus
ICP	<i>Infirmiers Chefs de Poste (Head Nurses)</i>
IGR	Inclusive Governance for Resilience
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PAIC	<i>Plan annuel d'investissement Communautaire (Annual Community Investment Plan)</i>
PAVAC	<i>Producteurs Auxiliaires de Vulgarisation et d'Appuis Conseil (Supporting Producers for Outreach and Extension)</i>
PB	<i>Périmètre brachial (Arm circumference)</i>
PCD	<i>Plan communale de développement (Community development plan)</i>
PRD	<i>Plan régional de développement (Regional development plan)</i>
PTF	<i>Partenaires techniques et financiers (Technical and financial partners)</i>
RISE	Resilience in Sahel Enhanced
RRI	<i>Radio Rurale Internationale (Farm Radio International)</i>
SCOOPS	<i>Sociétés coopératives (Cooperative societies)</i>
SE-CNSA	<i>Secrétariat Exécutif du Conseil National de sécurité Alimentaire (Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council)</i>
SPAM	<i>Sous Projets d'Accès au Marché (Market Access Sub-Projects)</i>
ViMPlus	<i>Victoire sur la malnutrition plus (Victory Against Malnutrition Plus)</i>
WASH	Water, sanitation, and hygiene



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## Executive summary

The Knowledge Sharing Event, organized by the Victory Against Malnutrition Plus (ViMPlus) activity and funded by USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), brought together stakeholders from the development, humanitarian and peace sectors to share success stories in implementing resilience practices, identify opportunities for adaptation, and discuss challenges for successful project implementation in a context of security issues. Over 200 resilience practitioners, including ViMPlus participants, traditional leaders, state actors, RISE II implementing partners and USAID staff participated in the two-day event. Participants in the Knowledge Sharing Event shared their knowledge and experiences through a variety of communication formats, including PowerPoint presentations, panel discussions, poster galleries, and group working sessions. The event was a great success, both in terms of the quality of participation and the relevance of the analyses and discussions that took place. At the opening of the Knowledge Sharing Event, Mr. Emilien Bakoné, Executive Secretary of Burkina Faso's National Food Security Council, said: "The presence of the Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council at this event testifies to the commitment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries, and therefore of the Government, to provide leadership in defining orientations and policies, and in coordinating resilience interventions. In other words, the Government will pay particular attention to the conclusions that emerge from this experience-sharing meeting, in order to improve the resilience of our populations."

## Key results: Emerging themes and priorities for the Knowledge Sharing Event

This event was designed to promote inter-project collaborative learning and the sharing of promising development practice strategies. Throughout the event, participants shared their experiences of implementing development projects in the extremely complex environment that currently exists in the Centre-Nord Region. Several key themes emerged from the discussions and presentations during the Knowledge Sharing Event. These were highlighted as key factors in the success of development activities in the context of Burkina Faso.

- The importance of collaboration: To successfully develop multi-actor interventions and guarantee empowerment and resilience of project participants, it is important to improve:
  - Coordination mechanisms
  - Sequencing, layering, and integrating (SLI) activities
  - Collaboration between state actors, projects and participants, and the importance of institutional strengthening of systems to achieve sustainability.
- The importance of inclusion: In the context of project implementation amid an ongoing security crisis in Burkina Faso, it is important to successfully involve all stakeholders (men, women, young people). This will enhance the quality of implementation, reduce frustration and promote peaceful coexistence between internally displaced persons and host populations. To achieve this, projects and donors should ensure:
  - The voices and experiences of women and young people are considered, and they are involved in decision-making
  - The inclusion of all customary and religious leaders at the village level.
  - The importance of inclusion was reflected in the testimony of one of the event's participants when she declared during a session: "Before, I didn't feel comfortable



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speaking in front of the community... now I feel comfortable speaking in front of a room of 200 people." -Madame Songdowaoga Sawadogo, Mother Leader of Goema village, Pissila commune.

- The importance of flexibility and adaptability: Planning should be sensitive to the implementation context. When reviewing programming, participants recommended that implementing partners be open to innovation and flexibility at various levels:
  - In financial terms
  - At the planning level

There will always be unpredictable challenges, and the ability to adapt to the context allows actors to face and overcome these challenges to build resilience.

- The importance of exchanging learning and experiences at all levels: To manage vulnerability factors, many players have developed innovative initiatives. To avoid repetition, we need to develop peer learning and promote the adaptation/adoption of what has worked. This requires:
  - Sharing information: tools, successes, failures and challenges
  - Organization of joint practice review sessions

The Knowledge Sharing Event and similar gatherings provide an opportunity for actors at all levels to share their experiences: what has worked, what has not, and exchange tools and practices.

- The importance of mobilizing RISE actors to promote the dissemination of successful implementation of resilience practices.



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## Session summary

### Day I

#### Session I: Knowledge Sharing Event Opening

#### Opening speeches

Presenters:

- Mr Régis Terrien, Chief of Party, ViMPlus (ACDI/VOCA)
- Ms Sylvia Megret, President, ACDI/VOCA
- Ms Sara Rasmussen Tall, Acting Team Lead, BHA/USAID
- Mr Emilien Bakoné Executive Secretary of the National Food Security Council (SE-CNSA)

Summary: Speakers acknowledged the many major challenges facing Burkina Faso. At the same time, they appreciated the excellent work of projects like ACDI/VOCA's ViMPlus in addressing these challenges. Speakers emphasized the importance of adaptation and collaboration between private and public actors in development assistance, humanitarian assistance and peace.



Ms Sylvia Megret, Ms Sara Rasmussen Tall, and Mr Emilien Bakoné listen to the opening address by Mr Régis Terrien, Chief of Party, ViMPlus (ACDI/VOCA).



#### Photo stand walkthrough

Participants visited project stands in several resilience sectors, including good governance; disaster risk management; gender and social inclusion; livelihoods; health; nutrition; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). These stands showcased best

practices and key interventions with photos of activities. Representatives from ViMPlus (ACDI/VOCA), Yidgiri (CNFA), PREPARE (Pathfinder), TerresEauVie (Winrock International) and IGR (Creative Associates International) presented their activities and tools. Some stands, like the ViMPlus Health and Nutrition stand, provided samples of products made by activity participants, such as fortified complementary foods for young children and bags of dried dark-green leafy vegetables.



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## Session 2: Programmatic review and analysis of Humanitarian Action-Development Action-Peace (HDP) integration in the Burkina Faso context: Issues and challenges

### PowerPoint presentations

1. **The panier de la résilience to gradually build the resilience of vulnerable households** presented by Inoc POODA, **Head of the Resilience Department at the Secrétariat Exécutif du Conseil National de sécurité Alimentaire (SE-CNSA)/Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council**

Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/SE-CNSA\\_Resilience-basket\\_en.pptx](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/SE-CNSA_Resilience-basket_en.pptx)



Mr. Inoc Pooda presents the resilience basket of the Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council.

Objective: Contribute to improving the food and nutritional security of vulnerable households by focusing on strengthening livelihoods to reduce the need for food assistance.

Proposed actions and next steps:

- Increase the budget allocated to implementing the *panier de résilience* (technical and financial partners; NGOs; associations)
- Contribute to the implementation of the *panier de résilience* in intervention areas targeting vulnerable households
- Ensure that, at the end of the intervention, beneficiary households are self-sufficient

2. **Operational plan for food sovereignty and the creation of decent jobs in the agropastoral sector: Agropastoral and Fisheries Initiative 2023-2025** presented by Dr. Remy Pale, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Fisheries Resources, CDCPI/ST-OAPH

Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CDCPIST-OAPH\\_Agropastoral-initiative\\_en.pptx](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CDCPIST-OAPH_Agropastoral-initiative_en.pptx)

Objective: To develop new mechanisms to ensure sustainable food security for the people of Burkina Faso. This plan, entitled *Offensive Agropastorale et Halieutique 2023-2025* (Agropastoral and Fisheries Initiative 2023-2025), represents a vision and a commitment to instill a dynamic of structural transformation in agriculture, while contributing to rebuilding the livelihoods of vulnerable households. The plan demonstrates the ambition of high-level authorities to achieve food sovereignty in Burkina Faso.



Dr. Remy Pale presents the **Agropastoral and Fisheries Initiative 2023-2025**



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Proposed actions and next steps proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture:

- The creation of a single fund, the *Fonds de Développement Agropastoral* (FDAP, Agropastoral Development Fund in English), with three branches: one for animal resources, one for fisheries resources and one for crop and fruit production
- Extending the scope of agro-pastoral insurance to the eight products selected for the initiative

### 3. Adapting to crisis: ACDI/VOCA's programming experience in Burkina Faso presented by Régis Terrien, ViMPlus Project Manager

Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ViMPlus\\_Resilience-and-Adaptation\\_ACDI-VOCA\\_en.pptx](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ViMPlus_Resilience-and-Adaptation_ACDI-VOCA_en.pptx)

Mr. Régis Terrien described the various adaptations ViMPlus made throughout the project. He highlighted the importance of donor flexibility, in this case, USAID, who understood, accepted and supported all the necessary adaptations throughout the life of the project.



Mr. Régis Terrien presents ACDI/VOCA's programmatic adaptations during ViMPlus implementation.

Proposed actions and next steps:

- Document good resilience practices
- Create frameworks for dialogue and experience-sharing between stakeholders
- Concerted action and synergy between actors
- Request donor support in accepting and accompanying the various adaptations to ensure the sustainability of project activities.

### Panel discussion:

Panel members:

- Dr. Remy Palé, Representative of the Technical Secretary of the Agro-Sylvo--Pastoral Offensive, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security Council
- Dr. Siaka Millogo, Program Director, Mercy Corps Burkina Faso / Niger
- Ms. Cheryl Turner, Executive Vice-President, ACDI/VOCA
- Mr. Emilien Bakoné, Executive Secretary of the National Food Security Council, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security Council
- Mr. Théophile Wangre, Deputy Head of Nutrition and Health Department, ACF

### Summary:

The panel discussion focused on the challenges of coordinating humanitarian, development and peace efforts in Burkina Faso in a context of food crisis and multidimensional security. The panel stressed the



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need to formulate flexible projects through specialized structures to enable projects to meet new challenges by combining efforts for synergistic action and breaking the cycle of over-dependence on aid.

Strengthening the link between humanitarian aid, development and peace actors in Burkina Faso will require major organizational decisions to adapt to the difficult security situation. To be successful, projects must prioritize information sharing, building win-win partnerships, facilitating the adaptation of funding to accompany a changing context, and providing social support to households and individuals. Donor budget flexibility was highlighted as one of the key strategies for ensuring that programs are adapted to beneficiaries' needs in a rapidly changing context.

The contribution of a range of actors (decision-makers, donors, implementing partners, beneficiaries) is necessary for successful decision-making in humanitarian and development projects. This includes having a vision adapted to the project participants' situation, combining assistance with capacity building to ensure resilience, and capitalizing on beneficiaries' pre-existing skills, knowledge and aspirations. Human dignity must be at the heart of project design and implementation to improve project participants' livelihoods while strengthening their resistance to shocks and stresses.



Members of the panel discussing the coordination of humanitarian, development and peace efforts in Burkina Faso. From left to right: Dr. Remy Palé, Dr. Siaka Millogo, Ms. Cheryl Turner, Mr. Emilien Bakoné, and Mr. Théophile Wangre.

### Session 3: Joint analysis of institutional governance and social cohesion practices that strengthen household and community resilience to shocks and stresses

#### Key points and observations from the session

Session 3 focused on participatory planning tools, good social cohesion practices and group work on challenges, opportunities and collaboration for strengthening institutional governance. Particular emphasis was placed on institutional governance and social cohesion practices for strengthening household and community resilience to shocks and stresses. This session began with a PowerPoint presentation on ViMPlus' community governance tool, the *Plan Annuel d'Investissement Communautaire* (PAIC) and was followed by a series of poster visits, where Knowledge Sharing Event participants visited posters describing different actors' governance and social cohesion activities and were able to interact directly with activity leads to share experiences and challenges. The session ended with a testimonial from a local community leader and a group working session for all participants to discuss best practices and challenges regarding good governance and social cohesion interventions in Burkina Faso.

#### PowerPoint presentation

- I. **Annual Community Investment Plan (PAIC): a community-driven development tool** presented by Ms. Edwige Gamené, Governance Lead, ViMPlus (ACDI/VOCA)



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Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ViMPlus\\_Good-Governance\\_PAIC\\_en.pptx](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ViMPlus_Good-Governance_PAIC_en.pptx)



Ms Edwige Gamené, Governance Lead, ViMPlus (ACDI/VOCA), discusses the process of developing Annual Community Investment Plans (PAICs).

As the gateway to the village development councils (CVDs), each innovation was co-created with the CVDs. PAICs were created in the context of low participation in the development planning process, with limited funding, weak organizational capacity and lack of planning tools. PAICs were created as a means by which communities themselves develop development actions to address their vulnerability.

#### Poster presentations:

**IGR project stand (Creative) presented by Yacouba KERE:** Evaluation of the operational capacity and efficiency of municipal administrations (town halls), with reinforcement plan

Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster\\_OEMT-IGR\\_Creative-en.pdf](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster_OEMT-IGR_Creative-en.pdf)

**ViMPlus project stand (ACDI/VOCA) presented by Edouard BOENA, Social Cohesion and Accountability Specialist:** Endogenous mechanisms for promoting social cohesion and living together: the case of community dialogue

Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster\\_Cohesion-Sociale\\_ViMPlus-en.pdf](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster_Cohesion-Sociale_ViMPlus-en.pdf)

**PREPARE project stand (Pathfinder) presented by Sayon KONE, Technical Advisor:** Community Performance Map (CPM): when communities get involved in health issues

Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster\\_Carte-communautaire- PREPARE-en.pdf](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster_Carte-communautaire- PREPARE-en.pdf)

#### Testimonials

1. **SAWADOGO** Kayaba, vice-president of the CVD office in the village of Zomnogo-Bangré, Tougouri commune (testimonial)
2. **ZOUMA** Tambi, Prefect of Pissila, representing the High Commissioner of Sanmatenga province (testimonial to ViMPlus actions)

#### Group work on joint analysis of the challenges of sustaining the leadership of local institutions:

Following presentations, visits to the stands and testimonials, Knowledge Sharing Event participants were invited to discuss the session's key messages with each other. This activity enabled participants to work in groups to discuss the challenges and opportunities of local leadership capacity development. Participants shared their experiences of various local leadership



Mr. Kayaba SAWAGODO, vice-president of the CVD office in the village of Zomnogo-Bangré, talks about the benefits of capacity building for community planning.



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development initiatives (CVD, AUE, Community Health Group, etc.) and identified next steps to strengthen local leadership. The key outcomes of the group work are as follows:

**On the blockages/challenges at the level of communities and their organizations that have most limited participation and ownership of project and program actions:**

**Defining priorities:**

Major challenges include the non-involvement of communities in identifying their needs, poor consultation of local institutions/communities, the inflexibility of certain projects, insufficient information, lack of a shared vision, inter-community mistrust, absence of suitable planning tools, poor inclusion of different community groups (women, youth, etc.) and lack of understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different members of local institutions.

**Financing:**

Obstacles include a lack of community involvement in project financing, poor mobilization of endogenous resources, divergent approaches to financing projects and programs (development projects/humanitarian projects), lack of harmonized approaches to financing development projects, and poor accountability and transparency.

**Sustainability strategies:**

Challenges include a lack of community ownership of the project's achievements at the end, the complexity of project implementation, non-acceptance of donor priorities, the inclusion of all stakeholders, the transfer of the project's monitoring approach to the state, administrative and political instability, the absence/weak ownership of an exit strategy, weak accountability and low social cohesion.

**On opportunities that will help strengthen the quality of local governance, leadership, accountability and ownership of project actions:**

**At the local level:**

Local players (CVDs, WUAs, COGES, Community Councils) have strengthened their capacities. Legal and operational community structures exist, and local communities are supportive of local governance actions. CVD offices are in place and tools (APIC, DRM action plan) have been mastered. The community is committed, the players (CVD, WUA, etc.) are autonomous, and management is transparent thanks to accountability days. A network of local structures to share experiences exists. There is a framework for accountability and community dialogue, as well as action plans (APIC at village level, PCD at commune level, PRD at regional level). Local land charters exist, accounts are kept and there are community radio stations to communicate important information.



Knowledge Sharing Event participants had the opportunity to share their experiences in group work sessions.



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### **Political and institutional:**

There are regulatory texts and revised laws (CGCT), technical support structures and a national policy of good governance. Local authorities are committed and supported, plans (DRM, APIC, Charte Foncière Locale) are institutionalized, and CVDs are supervised by town halls. APICs can be integrated into PCDs, decentralization regulations have been reviewed, and there are strategic projects, programs and action plans. The agro-sylvo-pastoral offensive has been drawn up and adopted.

### **Partners (humanitarian and development):**

Clusters have been set up, and tools and approaches have been developed and shared. There is a synergy of action between the various partners, flexibility in adapting to the context, and governance is a priority for many partners. Activities can be financed by partners.

### **On collaborative actions or measures with central/regional and local government to improve the usefulness and impact of institutional governance practices and local ownership:**

The conclusions of the workshop will be shared with local stakeholders, and a more inclusive committee will be set up to manage the action plans. Community actions will be integrated into development plans, supported financially, and actors will be trained in their roles. Community structures will be rationalized and their actions institutionalized, with the support of technical structures. Consultation frameworks will be established, and social cohesion will be promoted at all levels. Experiences will be shared, a complaints management mechanism will be set up, and the impact of the project will be evaluated.

### **Summary of Session 3**

There are many obstacles and challenges to the participation and ownership of project actions by communities and their organizations. When it comes to defining priorities, the main obstacles include the failure to involve communities in identifying their needs, the lack of consultation with local institutions, the rigidity of certain projects, the lack of information, the absence of a shared vision, inter-community mistrust, the inadequacy of planning tools, the low level of inclusion of various community groups (women, youth, etc.) and the lack of understanding of roles and responsibilities within local institutions. On the financial front, challenges include the absence of community contributions to project funding, weak mobilization of local resources, divergent funding approaches (development/humanitarian), lack of harmonization of approaches, and poor accountability and transparency.

However, opportunities exist to strengthen the quality of local governance and ownership of project actions. At local level, players have strengthened their capacities, community structures are up and running, and communities are in favor of local governance. Revised laws and regulations, technical support structures, a national policy of good governance at political and institutional levels, and frameworks for cooperation between humanitarian and development partners provide a solid foundation. Collaborative measures with the central/regional and communal administrations, such as sharing workshop conclusions, creating inclusive committees, integrating community actions into development plans, streamlining community structures, and establishing consultation frameworks, are recommended to improve the usefulness and impact of institutional governance practices and local ownership.



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## Day II

### Session 1: Opening Session

The first session of the second day of the Knowledge Sharing Event consisted of a review of the activities of the first day of the Knowledge Sharing Event and a presentation of the objectives for Day 2. It was moderated by Lucien Ouali.

### Session 2: Joint review of evidence (tools, methods, and measurement approaches) of good resilience practices that improve the health and nutritional status of mothers and children chronically vulnerable to shocks and stress.

Session 2 included a series of presentations, a testimonial from a mother leader, and a panel discussion of nutrition and health experts. The next steps and actions recommended by the participants and experts included: i) the involvement of communes in granting resources to the ASBC, ii) the promotion of nutritious gardens for the adoption of good health and nutrition practices, iii) the initiation of savings groups with GASPA for the creation of income-generating activities, and iv) the reinforcement of the monitoring of regulatory criteria and standards for food fortification.

#### Session presentations

1. **Repositioning village birth attendants (AVs): A resilient response to improve maternal and neonatal health in areas affected by insecurity**, presented by **Mr. Iréné Wangrawa**, Lead of Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health component of the PATHFINDER project.

Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/PREPARE\\_Maternal-Health\\_en.pptx](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/PREPARE_Maternal-Health_en.pptx)

The main lesson to be learnt from this experience is that the involvement and commitment of health stakeholders - DRS, Health Districts and Nurse Supervisors (ICP) on the one hand, and the availability of kits and monitoring of birth attendants on the other - have all contributed to the success of the strategy implemented. As the activities are in line with the national health system policy, the approach could be sustainable, provided it is reinforced during the project's sustainability period.

2. **Integrated package for community-driven management of malnutrition challenges** presented by Mr. Jean Nadembega, Program Manager Health-Nutrition/WASH and Youth, ViMPlus project.

Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ViMPlus\\_ANJE-integrated-services-en.pptx](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ViMPlus_ANJE-integrated-services-en.pptx)

The deployment of the "Community-driven integrated management package for the challenges of malnutrition" took place despite the prevalence of malnutrition and the closure of several health centers. Mr. Nadembega shared experiences of combating malnutrition in a community through an integrated management package targeting women and children. The package includes screening, infant flour production and vegetable drying. The text highlights the lessons learned, the difficulties encountered and the challenges to be met to perpetuate and popularize the experience.



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**3. Resilience practices to improve the health and nutrition of vulnerable populations, especially mothers and children vulnerable to shocks and stress presented by Mr. Théophile Wanre, Deputy Head of the Health-Nutrition Department of Action Contre la Faim (ACF).**

Link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ACF\\_Resilience-practices\\_Health-and-Nutrition\\_en.pptx](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ACF_Resilience-practices_Health-and-Nutrition_en.pptx)

This presentation outlined several experiences developed within a triple nexus approach, which in addition to humanitarian and development issues, also includes the question of peace. The presentation described the development of several approaches: HSS, SURGE and Community Resilience for Health Systems Strengthening. To implement these approaches, resilience activities have been promoted such as household PBs, GASPA, access to water in CSPSs, the setting up of COGES, the delegation of tasks to ASBCs and village birth attendants, awareness-raising on how to deal with the first signs of stress and stress management, and the implementation of care practices at CREN level.

**4. Health-Nutrition activity package, approach presented by Mr. Abdoulaye Bikienga, deputy manager of Catholic Relief Services (CRS).**

Like ACF, CRS implements HDP Nexus activities in the fields of emergency and development. These include a package of WASH activities, education through school cafeterias, and promotion of social cohesion and local leadership. Nutritional activities involve large-scale food fortification at regional level at local level, relayed by the Beog Biiga Project. The foods targeted for fortification are oil, wheat, and salt. Two key lessons can be drawn from this approach: i) large-scale food fortification is essential to revitalize the economy, and ii) multi-sectoral complementarity is the key to performance.

**Testimonial**



Mrs. Songdowaoga Sawadogo, Mother Leader in the commune of Pissila, talks about the benefits of the approach on the personalities of the beneficiary women.

Presented by Mrs. Songdowaoga Sawadogo, a mother leader from the village of Goema in the commune of Pissila, the testimonial was an excellent complement to the presentations, providing a concrete illustration of the impact of the approach on the personalities of the beneficiaries. Indeed, the testimonial highlighted the impact of her role as a mother leader in terms of leadership, and the development of her skills in running GASPAs, screening for malnutrition, producing improved infant flour from local produce, developing skills in drying dark-green leafy vegetables and making home visits.

In terms of lessons learned, mother leaders are living models of leadership and endogenous skills that projects/programs can draw on to ensure the sustainability of their actions. What remains to be done is to formalize their status, in terms of recognition and, above all, structuring.



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### From the expert panel

The presentations above and the testimonial gave way to a panel of experts on the theme: **what are the new challenges linked to nutrition in the current context? What can be done to ensure the successful continuity of GASPA's? What are the future challenges for nutrition advocacy?**

The following experts moderated the panel: Iréné Wangrawa, in charge of the Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health component of the PATHFINDER Project; Jean Nadembega, Program Manager Health-Nutrition/WASH and Youth/ViMPlus Project; Théophile Wanre, Deputy Head of the Health-Nutrition/ACF Department; Abdoulaye Bikienga, Deputy Head/CRS and Natacha Yameogo, representative of the Nutrition Department, moderated by Mr. Lucien Ouali, DCOPT of the ViMPlus Project.



Natacha Yameogo, representative of the Nutrition Department, talks about the major challenges linked to nutrition.

The panel identified three **major challenges** linked to nutrition in the context of Burkina Faso: i) the continuity of health services in health facilities; ii) the management of cases of malnutrition detected in the difficult context, thanks to simplified management approaches; and iii) the supply of nutritional inputs (prevention and management inputs) in inaccessible areas.

As for the strategy for maintaining continuity of approaches with the GASPA's, the following were proposed: i) ongoing monitoring of the GASPA's by health agents, even after project closure; ii) promotion of local food production; iii) creation of savings and credit groups at GASPA level. In terms of advocacy for nutrition, the panel suggested the creation of nutrition networks and advocacy for the implementation of simplified approaches (ANJE in emergency situations, PB mother at home) with partner NGOs.

### Summary of Session 2

The various interventions achieved significant results in terms of: i) reduction in nutritional deficiencies; ii) capacity-building of the private sector for fortification; iii) strengthening of the public-private partnership for the large-scale fortification project; evolution in the practice of exclusive breastfeeding and prenatal visits; and iv) institutional anchoring for food fortification.

Several factors contributing to the success of health and nutrition initiatives were identified. First, the collection of ingredients during periods of highest availability to build up stocks for production of complementary foods for infants and children is critical for ensuring food and nutrition security during the lean season. The implementation of the *Ecoles de Maris* (husband schools) contributed to the involvement of men in making the ingredients for complementary food production available. The effective involvement and support of various health actors, DRS, Health Districts and ICP, and the availability of kits and the monitoring of VAs all contributed to the success of the strategy of repositioning village midwives.



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### Session 3: Joint analysis of agricultural approaches and innovations to strengthen the resilience of family farms in response to shocks and stresses: local mechanisms, issues, lessons and sustainability factors

#### PowerPoint presentation

- I. **Local support system for agricultural producers: PAVAC model** presented by Mr. Théodore Lompo, Livelihoods Lead, ViMPlus Project (ACDI/VOCA)

Presentation link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ViMPlus\\_Livelihoods\\_PAVAC\\_en.pptx](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ViMPlus_Livelihoods_PAVAC_en.pptx)

Technical paper link (in French): [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ViMPlus\\_PAVAC\\_FicheTechnique.pdf](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ViMPlus_PAVAC_FicheTechnique.pdf)



Théodore LOMPO, ViMPlus Project Lead Livelihoods, talks about the PAVAC model.

Mr. Lompo's presentation on the *Paysans Auxiliaires de Vulgarisation et d'Appui-Conseil* (PAVAC) highlighted the development of a system was conceived following observations of a shrinking state support network and limited producer access to local training/extension and advisory support services. The system is based on endogenous skills to change producers' behaviors and increase agricultural productivity.

#### Poster presentations

Following the presentation of the ViMPlus project's PAVAC system, participants in the Knowledge Sharing Event were divided into three groups to take part in the poster presentations. Each presentation lasted 20 minutes. The poster presenters included several PAVACs

themselves.

- I. **ViMPlus Project poster stand**

The ViMPlus project presented two key livelihoods practices: the PAVAC approach and seed multiplication of improved varieties. The stand was presented by PAVAC in the Mooré language with translation into French. In addition to the system of local support for producers, the steps involved in seed multiplication were outlined, from the purchase of RI-certified seeds, the demarcation of seed plots in accordance with recommended isolation distances, soil preparation, sowing and plant maintenance, to harvesting and conservation.



Two PAVACs from the ViMPlus project share their experiences of the model and seed multiplication activities during the booth presentation.

PAVAC approach poster link:

[https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster\\_Modele-PAVAC\\_ViMPlus-en.pdf](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster_Modele-PAVAC_ViMPlus-en.pdf)



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Seed multiplication poster link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster\\_Multiplication-de-semences\\_ViMPlus-en.pdf](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster_Multiplication-de-semences_ViMPlus-en.pdf)

## 2. YIDIGIRI Project poster stand



Dominique Bassole, DCOP of the YIDIGIRI Project, talks about the CIPA approach.

The *Crédit d'investissement pour la production Agricole* (CIPA) approach for supply of agricultural and zotechnical inputs was presented by Mr. Dominique Bassole and Mr. Edouard Sedogo.

Through this approach, the YIDIGIRI Project assists producers in acquiring quality inputs at lower cost. As a result, the project has developed a simple tool for producers to express input needs at the village and provincial levels through SCOOPS and unions for aggregate purchase of inputs. This mechanism enables producers to access quality inputs and achieve economies of scale.

Poster link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster\\_Acces-aux-intrants\\_Yidgiri-en.pdf](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster_Acces-aux-intrants_Yidgiri-en.pdf)

## 3. PAFPA/PAFA-4R poster stand

The market access sub-project (SPAM) approach was presented by Mr. Adama Kafando of the *Projet d'appui à la promotion des Filières agricoles* (PAFPA/PAFA-4R). The approach is based on financing a technological package (agricultural inputs, equipment, capacity building for beneficiaries) for producers in the cowpea, sesame, rice and onion sectors, with a view to improving production. It has actors involved in sustainable land development.

Poster link: [https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster\\_Approche-SPAM\\_FIDA-en.pdf](https://www.acdivoca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Poster_Approche-SPAM_FIDA-en.pdf)



Adama KAFANDO talks about the market access sub-project (SPAM) of the PAFPA/PAFA-4R project.

### Summary of Session 3:

One of the main original features of the PAVAC system, which also contributed to its success, was the strong involvement of women and young people. The sustainability factors of the approaches presented during Session 3 include producers' control of the supply process and the involvement of technical services in the CIPA mechanism, developed by the YIDIGIRI project, as well as the support of field agents and the identification of two representatives within SCOOPS through the SPAM approach (PAPFA/PAFA-4R). The approach developed by Radio Rurale Internationale (RRI) showed the importance of involving public players in order to ensure the sustainability of activities, for

example in the development of an agreement between RRI and the national meteorological information service for the dissemination of meteorological information.



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The session's main recommendations for communities, the Burkina Faso government, projects and other players in agricultural development included extending PAVAC advisory support to the entire community, and training PAVACs in the collection of meteorological information. It was suggested that state actors should be more closely involved in the PAVAC approach, in order to strengthen training, extension and technical advisory support activities after the project to ensure the sustainability of the gains made. It was also recommended that PAVAC be integrated into the training/extension system, making it an important link in the local support system. Lastly, PAVACs should be formally recognized at the local level, with support from the political and institutional (State) levels, as well as technical and financial. Finally, the institutionalization of the Knowledge Sharing Event was proposed as a way of continuing to share experience and knowledge.

#### Session 4: Coordination issues, technical adaptations and sustainability

For the last working session of the Knowledge Sharing Event, participants had the opportunity to discuss in groups the issues and opportunities concerning the coordination of HDP players and key adaptations to ensure the sustainability of activities and projects in a context of food insecurity and security problems. This session was devoted to the challenges of coordination, technical adaptations, and sustainability from a gender perspective, and involved both group work and a plenary discussion of outcomes from group discussions. The themes addressed during this session were: i) governance and gender mainstreaming, ii) health-nutrition-WASH and gender mainstreaming, and iii) livelihoods and gender mainstreaming.

Several key recommendations emerged from the group discussions:

- *Governance*: the development and implementation of a national strategy for knowledge management and application among authorities. Through the implementation of this strategy, development players would work on the basis of harmonized tools, approaches and procedures; the involvement of local authorities and technical services in the design and implementation of projects;
- *Health-Nutrition-WASH*: the development of mobile interventions to reach beneficiaries in their respective environments and the development of integrated actions in the fight against malnutrition;
- *Livelihoods*: institutionalization and formal recognition of PAVACs in the agricultural extension system, and advocacy with government structures and other partners for adoption of the system.



Group discussions on coordination issues between HDP players and the technical adaptations needed to ensure the sustainability of activities.

The full results and recommendations of the group working session can be found in the Appendix. The aim was to propose actions to be developed in a collaborative manner to enable project/program



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managers to strengthen decision-making, scale up tools and approaches, and build on practices shared during the Knowledge Sharing Event.

### Session 5: Major lessons and closing of the Knowledge Sharing Event

To conclude the Knowledge Sharing Event, several key stakeholders presented their impressions of the event and outlined next steps to build on the successes of HDP interventions in Burkina Faso.

Mr. Adama Conseiga, High Commissioner of Namentenga province, acknowledged that the communal, provincial, and regional authorities in the Centre-Nord region are aware of the actions of the ViMPlus Project and are collaborating on several approaches, as evidenced by their presence at the Knowledge Sharing Event. He also thanked all the technical and financial partners, implementers, and beneficiaries for the success of the interventions in the Centre-Nord region. Finally, he expressed the hope that the recommendations arising from the Knowledge Sharing Event would be discussed and addressed to encourage collaboration and facilitate sustainable, coordinated implementation of the recommendations.

Ms. Asseta Bandaogo, Program Management Specialist/USAID BHA praised the organizational quality of the Knowledge Sharing Event, as well as the level of exchanges. She acknowledged that, despite the security context, the partners had developed the strategies needed to effectively implement the project's activities. The testimonies of the beneficiaries revealed the resilience of the managers of the local structures, empowering them in the dissemination of practices.

Mr. Regis Terrien, COP of ViMPlus ACDI/VOCA, after thanking all the participants for their great participation and the quality of their contributions, congratulated community actors such as the CVDs, the PAVACs who led poster presentations, and the Mother Leaders who presented their activities. According to him, the active engagement and leadership of project participants in the Knowledge Sharing Event demonstrates their skills and knowledge while ensuring the sustainability of HDP interventions.

Mr. Terrien also thanked all technical and financial partners, state partners, implementing partners and project beneficiaries for their resilience in the face of major challenges. The participation of all these partners made the Knowledge Sharing Event a success, enabling them to share their experiences and the success of their projects and processes, all of which contribute to the resilience of communities and households. He also invited the audience to continue collaborating and sharing approaches, knowledge and practices, for greater household resilience and, consequently, improved well-being for the populations in the respective project/program/area of intervention.

The Knowledge Sharing Event concluded with a plenary discussion of key takeaways from the two-day event.

## Conclusion and next steps

Following the Knowledge Sharing Event, several important steps were identified to build on findings and priority recommendations emerging from the event. Firstly, a collection of tools from various actors will



Ms. Asseta Bandaogo, Programme Management Specialist/BHA



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be compiled to create a solid and effective learning network. This initiative will be complemented by the development and dissemination of a synthesis of the work of the Knowledge Sharing Event, enabling all participants and interested parties to understand the results and conclusions of the event.

### **Key lessons:**

The lessons learned from the Knowledge Sharing Event underline the importance of quality collaboration at various levels, established between different projects, actors and groups within communities to achieve the desired results. This collaboration relies on an effective coordination mechanism to pool resources and avoid duplicating approaches and activities deployed in the same areas and populations. It is essential to plan interventions and organize frameworks for consultation and collaborative learning based on experiences, successes and failures, in order to better adapt to major and unpredictable challenges in a dynamic context. The involvement of state actors and the inclusion of all social strata, in particular women and young people, will help to improve interventions and make them more inclusive and sustainable. The Knowledge Sharing Event is a great opportunity for learning and collaboration on resilience practices. Last but not least, the flexibility of donors in favor of new adaptation strategies has been essential for successful project implementation despite the challenges of a rapidly changing context in Burkina Faso.

ViMPlus has succeeded in establishing a good working relationship with the local authorities in the Centre-Nord region, which has led to significant results in terms of both processes and products. The recommendations emerging from the Knowledge Sharing Event are to be carried forward by all participants, underlining the importance of collective commitment. Attendance and participation remained constant throughout the two days of experience sharing, demonstrating the commitment and enthusiasm of the participants. Finally, the quality of the experiences shared and the richness of the ensuing exchanges made the Knowledge Sharing Event a resounding success, highlighting the value of these forums for sharing knowledge and best practices.

Despite all the positive aspects, and with a view to the sustainability of interventions and actions, challenges persist. Notably, 85% of beneficiaries are outside the project intervention zone due to insecurity, posing a major challenge to the effectiveness of interventions. In addition, some internally displaced people are planning to settle in their new host site, which requires support to be mobilized on their behalf to facilitate this transition. Finally, the decline in available agricultural land means that authorities and implementing partners need to develop new strategies to deal with this reality. These challenges underline the complexity of interventions in the field, and the need for a flexible, adaptive approach.

### **Next steps:**

As a next step, the creation of a framework to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing between actors at various levels to promote effective collaboration and communication will be essential. RISE projects will play an active part in the national drive to capture and share resilience experiences, approaches and practices, thus contributing to the continuous improvement of interventions. The involvement of state authorities in the monitoring and evaluation of project/program interventions is also a key step, guaranteeing the accountability and effectiveness of HDP activities. Finally, concerted action and the establishment of synergies in HDP interventions will be essential to maximize the impact and scope of interventions.



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## Appendix

### Day 2, Session 4

The following recommendations were made in relation to:

#### Governance and gender:

- the creation of a national community of practice.
- the development and implementation of a national strategy for the capitalization and management of knowledge among authorities. Through the implementation of this strategy, development players would work on the basis of harmonized tools, approaches and procedures.
- strengthening platforms for sharing experience and practices.
- raising awareness of gender-sensitive planning.
- revitalizing village CVDs by lobbying special delegations.
- disseminate the results of this Knowledge Sharing Event at national, regional and local levels.
- systematic integration of governance aspects into project formulation.
- creating a digital library of knowledge / popularizing best practices / advocating the appropriation and valorization of the achievements of various projects and programs.
- the involvement of local authorities and deconcentrated technical services in project design and implementation.
- the adoption of the HDP nexus approach.
- the operationalization of the national observatory for the prevention and management of community conflicts.
- setting up a framework for consultation between COPs and experts to harmonize tools, approaches and procedures.
- documentation and dissemination of governance-related experiences and approaches through participation in related sharing events (symposia, colloquia, forums, fairs, etc.).

#### Health-nutrition-WASH and gender:

- the drafting of a guide document to capitalize on experience, together with a joint action plan for the benefit of the players involved.
- development of a needs assessment tool.
- updating the map of regional and national players.
- strengthening the gender-transformative approach.
- the development of integrated actions to combat malnutrition.
- initiation of consultation frameworks between stakeholders.
- the production of a catalog of endogenous good practices in health-nutrition-wash.
- extension of the DO framework.
- participation of deconcentrated technical services in DOs.
- Identify new partners working in the same field with a view to setting up clusters.
- harmonization of Nexus indicators.
- the development of mobile interventions to reach beneficiaries in their respective environments.

#### Livelihoods and gender:



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- developing links between players.
- the creation of experience-sharing frameworks.
- the institutionalization and recognition of PAVACs within the agricultural extension system.
- translation and provision of agricultural extension tools in local languages.
- the institutionalization of the Knowledge Sharing Event.
- involvement of vulnerable groups / people living with disabilities.
- setting up a mechanism to manage PAVACs.
- PAVAC networking.
- the extension of PAVAC's scope of action to the entire village.
- lobbying government structures and other partners to adopt the system.



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