

2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Country: Mali and Mauritania

Year: 2009

Thematic Focus	Cooperation partner(s)
Civil Society for Accountable Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groupe de Recherche pour l'Amélioration des Initiatives des Populations (GRAIP), • Tassagh, • Association Sahélienne d'Appui au Développement Décentralisé (ASSADEC), • Groupe de Recherche d'Etude de Formation Femme Action (GREFFA), • Association pour la Survie au Sahel (AMSS), • NCA Kidal via Projet d'Appui au Développement Décentralisé de Kidal (PADDECK), • Women in Law and Development in Africa (Wildaf). • Centre Malien pour le Dialogue Inter-partis et de la Démocratie (CMDID)
HIV and AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groupe de Recherche pour l'Amélioration des Initiatives des Populations (GRAIP), • Association Sahélienne d'Appui au Développement Décentralisé (ASSADEC), • Association Malienne pour le Développement (AMADE).
Food Security and Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groupe de Recherche pour l'Amélioration des Initiatives des Populations (GRAIP), • Association Malienne pour le Développement (AMADE), • NCA Kidal via Projet d'Appui au Développement Décentralisé de Kidal (PADDECK), • Tassagh.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groupe de Recherche pour l'Amélioration des Initiatives des Populations (GRAIP), • Association Malienne pour le Développement (AMADE), • NCA Kidal via Projet d'Appui au Développement Décentralisé de Kidal (PADDECK), • Groupement des Artisans Ruraux d'Intadeyni (GARI).
Gender Based Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Médecins du Monde (MDM) • Pose Ton Couteau (PTC) • Apaf Musow Danbe, • Malian Network Against (MGF) • Women in Law and Development in Africa (Wildaf).

2.2 Which projects were completed during the year?

NCA Project ID	Norad Project Number	Other Back Donor Reference	Project Name
10155	GLO-04/268-47	Norad Other	Lay dawn your knife
10165	GLO-04/268-500	Norad General	GRAIP HIV/AIDS Programme
11145-1	GLO-04/268-388	Norad General	HIV/AIDS Programme in Kidal
10167-1	GLO-04/268-52	Norad General	ABD(CNPSDSM) Cooperatives for Food Security

10168-1	GLO-04/268-53	Norad General	UCT Cooperative for food security
11740-1	GLO-04/268-517	Norad General	AMADE HIV/AIDS Programme
11742	GLO-04/268-244	Norad Other	FGM Network in Mali
12175-1	GLO-04/268	Norad Other	Human Rights Project ¹
12175-2	GLO-04/268	Norad General	Human Rights Project ²
13608-1	GLO-04/268-444	NCA own funds	Knowledge management and capitalization of experience
13609-1	GLO-04/268-445	Norad Other	Awareness build & capacity build for women's Rights
14713	GLO-04/268-694	Norad General	Local mobilization of solar energy project ³
270001-1	GLO-04/268-696	Norad General	Multifunctional Platforms in Gao ⁴
270012	GLO-04/268-680	Norad Other	PADDECK, strengthening of local capacities for peace and development in Kidal
270002-1	GLO-04/268-695	Norad General	Multifunctional Platforms in Kidal ⁵
270012-4	GLO-04/268-866	Norad Other	Follow up and coordination NCA Mali ⁶
270014	GLO-04/268	NCA non earmarked	Special audit NCA MALI
12934	GLO-04/268-329	NCA other	Strengthening the capacity of local government in Kidal ⁷

1. Now pid 270018

2. Now pid 270018

3. Fused with pid 10158

4. Fused with pid 10153

5. Fused with pid 12936

6. Now two pids: 270012-4 Norad general 307 667 and pid 270012-7 Norad Other 428 333

7. Now 270012-6

2.3 To what degree have the programs been implemented as planned, and what results were achieved during the year?

2.3.1 Mali

In the strategic plan 2005-2009 NCA Mali concentrated on 6 thematic areas:

1. Civil Society for Accountable Governance,
2. Gender Based Violence
3. HIV and Aids
4. Food Security and Water
5. Education
6. Capacity Building

In 2009 NCA Mali received increased earmarked funding from Norad and two new programs were developed: *Recuperation of Small Arms in Kidal* and *Conflict Management and Consolidation and Peace in Gao and Timbuktu*.

NCA Mali will report on the results achieved in the following thematic priority areas: Civil Society for Accountable Governance including the two new programs¹, Gender Based Violence and HIV and Aids.

¹ The two programmes were later revised to fit under the Civil Society for Accountable Governance heading.

In addition results from the non-thematic priority areas Education and the Food Security and Water program will be reported upon below. We are using the numeration used in the Country programme plan Mali, 2005-2009.

In 2009, NCA and its partners have to a large extent been able to achieve the results as planned in the five year plan 2005-2009. However, due to budget constraints imposed by Oslo and the decision to celebrate NCA's 25th anniversary in Mali some revision of plans were necessary. Some of the capacity building activities planned were postponed due to budget and time constraints.

5.1 Capacity Building of partner organisations

Tailor made trainings were organised in 2009 to improve the organisational capacity of partners to ensure greater accountability and encourage the highest possible levels of implementation to address the needs of their local population. Due to budget constraints we were not able to do all the activities planned for.

Overall Goal 1: NCA partner organisations in Northern Mali are accountable and performing in their contributions to local development

Specific Objective 1.1: NCA partner organisations have a clear organisational identity, are able to adapt to a changing context and have increased operational capacities

Expected Result 1.1.1: NCA partners develop a clear Mission, Vision and Goal statements

This process started in 2008 when a partner assessment was conducted with some of the NCA core partners: GRAIP, AMSS, AMADE and GREFFA. In 2009 the same process was initiated with GARI and their sister organisation TEMEDT. This first initiative was meant to be followed up by strategic planning processes with the core partners but due to budgetary constraints (budget cuts in NCA's own funds) only one strategic planning process was conducted this year. A five day Strategic planning workshop with AMADE was organised in August. NCA hopes to be able to continue this process with other partners next year.

Expected result 1.1.2 NCA partners develop and apply clear, high performing management and financial systems and procedures

A special focus this year has been the capacity building of partners accounting skills. A capacity building workshop was organised for the accountants in all the partner organisations. The aim was to inform and train them on NCA Mali's requirements and procedures. This training was followed up by a capacity building workshop in the NCA accounting system SAARI for the accountants in Graip, Amade and Paral-K. In addition the NCA accountant Mme Togo, and M Touré, the person responsible for administration and accounting in Gao, have been giving advice to the partner organisations on request. A consultant has also been contracted to help partner organisations that needed assistance to finalise their financial statements in 2009. The result of these efforts is some improvements in the elaboration of the financial periodical reports and the preparing of the financial statement. However, further work is needed to raise the level of the partners accounting standards and is likely to remain a constant process as accounting staff turnover is high in many of the partner organisations. More positively, the partners are increasingly willing to ask for assistance at many financial levels, and therefore tend to be very open and transparent. A common understanding and areas for improvement has been developed to ensure better accounting and programming in the future.

Expected Result 1.1.3: NCA partners apply Rights Based Approaches to situational analysis to plan, implement and monitor local development programs.

See Below.

Expected Result 1.1.4: NCA partners have adequate networking and advocacy competences

One training on rights based approaches for partner organisations was included in the program “Women and Men Address Gender-Based Violence”. NCA staff members from Kidal and one representative from ASSADEC and ADAGH were present at this training. In order to ensure that partners work according to this approach we have included a question concerning this issue in our new yearly application form. We are also to a larger extent discussing advocacy issues with our partners and are encouraging them to include advocacy in their plans and budgets. Partners are now familiar with this terminology and several partners have started to train their target groups in the rights based approach. Trainings on advocacy and lobbying have been included in the program “Women’s participation in public life in Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal” and many other activities like public meetings, meetings organised to give input to the PDESC process (which is a participatory program to develop 4 year priorities for each commune in Mali), meetings on how to collect taxes etc., contribute to increase the networking and advocacy skills of our partners. A very encouraging result in Gao is that women’s groups started to ask for the rationale behind the fact that the village head was the president of all the village committees. They have understood that if the Duty bearers are presiding on all the committees it’ll be very hard to make them accountable.

5.2 Civil Society for an Accountable Governance

This program consists of 3 components

a) Development of Pastoral Resources in Kidal

b) Consolidation of Peace in Gao

c) Women’s Participation in Public Life in Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal

Local democracy and the participation of civil society in the development process are still “young” in Mali. The first local election was held in 1999. In 2009 the people of Mali held their third local election. The decentralisation process with local elections and more self governance given to the communes has been a catalyst for the development of organisations, associations at all levels and the hope is that the capacity building of these structures will lead to increased participation of civil society in the development process in Northern Mali. We are already seeing results of our support to both right holders and duty bearers in Northern Mali. The population is starting to realise that non engagement in elections and in the development of their own communities is detrimental to their own development.

Overall Goal 2: Improved Citizen Participation for Better Basic Service Delivery and Local Development in Northern Mali

See Below.

Specific Objective 2.1: Increased Citizen and Civil Society Engagement and Gender Equality in Local Government with a special Focus on the thematic Areas of NCA in Mali.

See Below.

Expected result 2.1.2 Citizens and civil society organisations are able to exert their right to influence and control local decision making.

The insecurity situation in 2008 made it very hard to work with the civil society as planned. In 2009 NCA Mali was able to re-establish 44 sector committees. Each sector committee consists of 9 elected members including at least one woman. The establishment of the committees was preceded by the mayors, but local councilors are not eligible. The General Assemblies held to put these committees in place gathered a total of 681 participants, including 72 women. 21 women were elected as members.

The sector is not part of the administrative system in the decentralization reform, but in 1999 NCA suggested this as a way of structuring the pastoral community in Kidal in order to create greater participation, transparency and equity in the local development process. The communes and the pastoral community welcomed the suggestion and adopted this mode of structuring a highly mobile community. Since then the sector committees are functioning partly as a counter power and as an excellent link between the councils in the communes and the grass roots population.

The members of the 44 committees have been trained in the following topics in order to be able to execute their duties: Development of the sector and the mandate of the sector committee. An assessment of the situation of the different sectors was undertaken and action plans for each sector developed. The role of the Sector in the prevention and management of conflicts related to natural resource management were discussed. The various sessions recorded the effective participation of 507 persons. The action plan developed by each sector will be taken into consideration when the PDESC (the local community plan), is developed.

It is too early to say what impact this training and the putting in place of the sector committees will have for the participation of the grass roots in the development of Kidal. An internal evaluation conducted in 2009 of the public meetings organised by the sector committees in 2006, in collaboration with NCA Kidal, shows that these public processes have great potential to mobilise the nomadic grass roots communities, encouraging them to participate in the development of their own commune.

The testimony of the various groups that participated in the evaluation of the Ashaqqarmiditch stated that for women: *"The Ashaqqarmiditch was the key that opens the rock. There was no communication before,"* Women's group, Inamzen. For men, the Ashaqqarmiditch was an opportunity to clarify the rights and duties of each group. Farmers were especially impressed with the new pastoral practices, the creation of local markets for livestock trade. M. Ag Azouledj Haniba, livestock breeder in Telabit said: *"The Algerians come to buy our stock in Mali after the creation of local markets. We have also learnt to store the hay and to sell animals when needed. We have also seen that we can use dogs to watch the livestock. All this I learned from Ashaqqarmiditch. I want these ideas to be written down for the youth."*

Young people were a little disappointed with the discussion as most of Ashaqqarmiditch focused on pastoralism, and on rights and duties. Young people were more interested in jobs. They believed that one Ashaqqarmiditch should be devoted purely to discuss youth employment. A young man, leader of one of the youth movements said: *"As long as we don't get jobs, the youth will remain very tempted by migration, trafficking of all kinds, rebellion, etc."*

For the elected officials, the Ashaqqarmiditch facilitated the collection of taxes, and built trust between them and the population. Elected officials maintain that the commitments from the Ashaqqarmiditch are genuine community development plans. These plans engage and mobilise more people than the PDESC process which they have difficulty understanding. Baba Albert, 1st Deputy Mayor of Aguelhok said: *"For me, Ashaqqarmiditch is a corridor between politicians and people. We washed the dirty linen at home. I am now able to collect more taxes and increase enrollment in school."*

Members of women's associations that NCA works with in Kidal had different stories to tell; *"For the population in Kidal the reintroduction of the Ashaqqarmiditch (community dialogue) has opened a new era for local development. Local development used to be a task for the local elite. Now it has become a public event."* Other women said: *"It was a big surprise for the women to learn that the population had duties towards the commune. The women had an understanding that it was only the commune that had duties to fulfil"*. A woman from the women's group "Tarti" d'Aguelhok said: *"After the debate we started to be interested in training. We now expect to be better informed and we are ourselves looking for information everywhere. Nothing is now happening at the community level without us knowing."*

Specific Objective 2.2: More equal gender representation in decision making structures on community level

Expected result 2.2.1: Potential female candidates are empowered to participate in local elections 2009

See Below.

Expected result 2.2.2: Local political parties have short listed women candidates at competitive positions

Women have been fighting for decision making processes in 2009 and have made considerable progress. In the local elections women participated much more than ever before. It seems clear that projects implemented by NCA partners have been important in the achievement of these results.

Number of women participating and elected in the elections in 2009 compared to 2004:

Region	Number of female candidates participating in Municipalities elections in the three regions in the NCA intervention zones		Number of women elected as councilors in the three regions	
	2004	2009	2004	2009
Timbuktu	108	130	6	5
Gao	103	143	4	7
Kidal	18	79	2	5
Total	229	352	12	17

The table shows us that more women candidates participated in the elections in 2009 than in 2004. 229 women were candidates in 2004 against 352 in 2009. In the intervention zone in Timbuktu there was an increase in the number of women candidates by 12 % (108 in 2004 against 130 in 2009) but a slight decrease in the number of women elected. 6 women were elected in 2004 against 5 in 2009.

Number of women elected in each region and in the NCA intervention zones in the municipality elections in 2009:

Region	% of women elected in each region	% of women elected in NCA intervention zone
Tombouctou	3,63	7,14
Gao	2,10	8,33
Kidal	4,51	5,95

The average regional result is lower than in the NCA intervention zones.

The number of women elected is still modest but the election process has been a learning period both for NCA, for our local partners, for women leaders, and for women in general. During the election processes the women negotiated with political parties to be put in eligible places and were heard to a large extent. What was not understood was that many parties played a dirty game and changed their lists at the last minute. Next time the women will know that they have to see the process through, which means following the list until it has been registered. One women leader expressed great satisfaction about the result saying that: *“ten years ago it was impossible to publicly talk about women running for elected positions in Northern Mali”*. It is also important to mention that the position of the women inside the council has been improved and this shows a change in the mentality of both men and women in the way they understand the role of women in public life.

The numbers might still not be too impressive but the impact of this program on the confidence of women is not to be forgotten. Women have a much better understanding of the political game than before. This is confirmed by the president of one of the biggest parties in the Timbuktu region: *“The women have understood politics. They are no longer letting themselves be used by men for their own election. The women can now be found in political positions at all levels. In 2012, several women will participate in the presidential elections.”*

The most positive development in 2009 was found in the region of Kidal. The number of women councilors rose from 2 to 5 in the NCA intervention zone, and at the same time women were accessing other decision making positions at a local level. In 1999 there were no women in the school committees in the communes where the program was implemented. In 2004 there were no women representatives in the communal health committees, but in 2009, 35 women were elected. In the traditional structures like village and district councils there were 2 women representatives in 2004 rising to 11 in 2009.

It is too early to say if the presence of women in decision making positions will have a positive impact on the development process in Mali but there are some few signs of hope that women can make a difference if they get a change. One example is in the urban commune of Gao: the 17 women elected as village councillors were actively engaged in the collecting of taxes. They went from door to door to explain to the population of Gao why it is important for them to pay their taxes. The women have so far visited 240 households and the chiefs of the quarter confirm that these actions by the women have increased the collection of taxes.

In general the impact of the program is that changes are being felt on social and political spheres and by the women themselves. From social point of view women leaders now know that women and men have equal rights to address issues in public. They think it is high time to take the views of women into account before any decision affecting their lives is taken. The fact that there are now more women in elected bodies at all levels means that men cannot decide without taking the views and interests of women into account. It can also be seen that the various trainings given to women before the elections prepared them better for the task. The trainings made them more "aggressive" in the fight for their rights to participate in the management of their communes. It also seems that traditions which tended to marginalize women in governance are less strong than before. A study made by one of the partner organisations says that 83 % of those interviewed were no longer against voting for a women candidates in municipalities elections.

Two women who have succeeded in being elected gave these testimonies: Mrs Halimatou Maiga, 3rd Deputy Mayor in Rharous: *Without training on decentralization, leadership, the electoral process and especially the coaching project, “I would not have been able to run for the position as 3rd Deputy Mayor. This program encouraged me, gave me confidence in myself and especially made me realize that without the participation of women there will be no development.”* Mrs. Diarra Issa Maiga 4th Deputy Mayor in Gao: *“Before the program participation of women in public life, I had no ambition to run for an important position in the city council. So I spent 19 years applauding for men. With the introduction of the participation of women program in Gao I began to have ambitions and even to speak in public. In the past that was difficult, with this program the women gained the courage to speak in front of an audience.”*

Expected result 2.2.3: Female counselors are empowered to exert their consequent rights and duties

341 women leaders have been trained in the following topics: the election process, voting techniques, how to plan and execute an election campaign, the role of the commune, the role and the responsibilities of the councilors, negotiating skills, and advocacy skills.

Specific Objective 2.3: Performing and accountable local and district councils with a special focus on the thematic areas of NCA in Mali in CCC targeted communes in Kidal (the former CCC has now become Le Syndicat Inter Collectivités ADAGH (SICA).

Expected Result 2.3.1: Local counselors are aware of the public and traditional rights of citizens to be consulted, to influence and to control local decision making

See Below.

Expected Result 2.3.2: Local councils inform citizens about their rights to be consulted, to influence and to control local decision making

See Below.

Expected Result 2.3.3: Local councils involve citizens and civil society organisations in decision making

See Below.

Expected Result 2.3.4: Local councils comply with public accountability procedures provided by Malian Law.

Following the local elections held in April 2009 the process of implementing activities involving elected leaders was slowed by the slow processes involving the installation of mayors and councilors in their new positions. Despite these difficulties NCA Kidal has been able to sign contracts of collaboration with 10 of the 11 communes in Kidal. The 11th commune of Tesselit was boycotted by NCA due to mismanagement of funds by the former mayor.

238 elected leaders and community/traditional leaders as well as technical employees of the communes were trained in the administration of the commune and the processes of decentralization. The new process of developing the communes' activity plans known as the PDESC gave an opportunity for elected leaders and citizens to meet to discuss the development of their communes. The trainings NCA provided for the elected and traditional leaders as well as for the sector committees made both duty bearers and right holders aware of their right and responsibilities.

ADAGH has given technical assistance to the communes to improve the administrative capacity of newly elected local leaders at different administrative levels in the region. ADAGH was able in 2009 to: participate in statutory meetings where the councilors were discussing and making decisions on developmental issues, participate in council planning meetings with the aim of estimating the tax revenue that they expect to collect in 2010 (Les rôles numériques), assisted in the elaboration of public budgetary hearings which the mayors are obliged to organise every year in order to account for the actions of the council, and assisted in the development of project documents presented to Agence Nationale d'Investissement des Collectivités Territoriales (ANICT), which, when accepted will further increase the development efforts in Kidal.

5.3 Women and men address Gender-Based violence

This program focused on Female Genital Mutilation and Early marriages. Three main approaches characterised this program. One was to sensitise people and groups who can influence decision making regarding circumcision and early marriages such as parents, men in general, local chiefs and religious leaders. Another approach was to work to reduce the social acceptance of dangerous practices by engaging in advocacy work to develop a legal national framework and the follow up of international conventions signed by Mali such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC). The third approach was

based on a health perspective, emphasising activities related to obstetrical fistula, its prevention through information dissemination, its treatment through surgery and through psychological care and follow up of the victims and their families.

Overall goal 3: Practices of gender-based violence, with a special focus on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriage, and their social and political acceptance are reduced in program areas.

Specific Objective 3.1: Civil society and media mobilized for the successful lobbying to reinforce national laws and legislation against Gender Based Violence

See Below.

Expected Result 3.1.1: Improved capacities of NCA and partners to lobby and advocate for the elaboration of national laws and legislation against FGM

One training on the rights based approach for partner organisations was included in the program ‘Women and Men Address Gender-Based Violence’. In order to assure that partners work was implemented according to this approach NCA included a question concerning this issue in the new yearly application form. Advocacy issues have also been discussed at length with partners with encouragement for its inclusion in their plans and budgets (this is also reported upon under Expected Results 1.1.4).

NCA contributed with Sida (Swedish International Development Agency) funds under the Local Democratic Governance Group (LDG) umbrella to train members of the National Assembly on the consequences of female genital circumcision. This platform was used to advocate for a specific law against female circumcision. More than 20 members of the National Assembly participated in a two days training. The Vice President of the National Assembly encouraged his peers to develop a law against this practice in order to stop a practice which is causing so much damage.

NCA contributed under the same LDG umbrella to a march against female genital circumcision in the 8 regions of Mali and the District of Bamako. The authorities reached by this manifestation in Bamako were: the City Council, the National Assembly, and the Governor. Both the Vice President of the National Assembly and the Governor of the Bamako District held speeches in favour of a law against female circumcision. These speeches left no doubt about their positions regarding this issue. More than one million signatures from the communes, the circles, the regions of Mali and the Bamako District have been obtained, demanding the State of Mali to vote a specific law to stop excision. The group intended to deposit the signatures at the level of the Prime Minister but was delayed by the issue of the Family Code. Ironically, the march of women inspired the Islamic group in August 2009 to march against the Code.

This issue is still very controversial hence le Ministère de la Promotion de femme, de l'enfant et de la famille, that had promised to support this bill pulled out in the last minute, possibly due to intimidation by some conservative religious leaders who thinks female circumcision is a Muslim practice. NCA has taken the lead in working on this issue, especially with religious leaders in order to come to terms with the wrong interpretation of Islam. NCA organised an awareness building workshop with religious leaders on the consequences of female genital mutilation in Tambaga in the county of Kita, region of Kayes and in Djenné one of the fortress of Islam in Mali. The first workshop was in collaboration with the Norwegian Protestant Mission in their zone of intervention. There were 100 participants and 70 of these were religious leaders from 3 communes. The workshop in Djenné

was organized with a women's NGO and gathered around 70 religious leaders, marabouts and government administrative key staff:

Results of these workshops:

- Open debates to exchange ideas and opinions regarding female genital mutilation
- Writings in the Koran and the Hadits which speak against FGM were discussed
- The final declaration from a similar workshop in Ségou in 2007 was recognized and adopted in Tambaga. This declaration accepts the Fatwa made in the Cairo conference in 2006.
- According to the Koran and the prophetic traditions FGM is illegal and this was accepted by the participants.
- An increased number of religious leaders who are against the practice of FGM.

At this stage it is hard to say something about the long term impact of this work. People are now talking more openly about the practice but after the president's decision to ask for a second reading of the new family law any subject related to female genital circumcision has become highly political and very sensitive. The Haute Conseil Islamique (HCI) which is run by a conservative Islamic group seems to use this situation to increase their influence on the political scene. The government is at the moment keeping quiet and the civil society is at the moment trying to avoid open conflicts with HCI and works underground. The civil society and a human rights activists' life have been threatened whilst the State seems to be helpless and lost much of its authority after the Islamists' march against the Code in August 2009.

Specific Objective 3.2: Increased engagement of community leaders and citizens in actions against Gender Based Violence

3.2.1 Citizens and Community leaders aware of Gender Based Violence and the negative consequences

The awareness raising and information dissemination on the curability of fistula seems to be working as planned hence fewer cases where husbands leave a wife who is victim of fistula are reported. The husband might take a second wife but according to information gathered, the women are no longer isolated but are receiving care from their family.

MDM has received a letter of gratitude from the Mayor of Lowolgeou after an awareness raising meeting organised by the TDC in his municipality. GREFFA is reporting great support for the project from the local political leadership, traditional leaders, and women associations.

In collaboration with the Norwegian Protestant Mission in Tamabaga, in the commune of Kita in the region of Kayes, an awareness raising workshop was organised for women who perform excision, student nurses and obstetricians. The result of the training was that several women who perform excision gave testimonies on their practice and publicly announced that they would abandon their practice and lay down their knives. They also decided to undertake advocacy work on this issue by giving talks over the radio.

Specific Objective 3.3: Number of women suffering from Obstetrical Fistula surgery reduced

Expected result 3.3.1: (Pregnant) Women and other citizens aware of Obstetrical Fistula, its treatment and prevention

444 letters of information have been sent to inform stakeholders that the fistula operations are being undertaken free of charge at the hospital in Mopti. Technicien de Development Communautaire (TDC) employed by MDM has organised 143 awareness rising meetings in the 8 circles of the region. 3800 women and 1757 men have participated in these meetings. Respectively, 441 local leaders and 208 traditional midwives have also participated. During these meetings 50 women in need of the operation were identified. The same women later contacted the hospital. MDM is about to recruit a dogon speaking TDC in order to reach more people. GREFFA has organised 88 awareness raising meetings in the Gao region.

MDM also supports a theatre group in the region that has been efficient in reaching out to people. About 50 fistula victims reported that they got to know about the free treatment at the hospital in Mopti after having seen the performance. Many other awareness raising efforts have been implemented by GREFFA and MDM.

Expected result 3.3.2: Improved care for fistula victims

203 women have been operated in Gao (79) and Mopti (144) in 2009. 20 of the operations in Mopti were complicated and the women will need a second operation. The psychological treatment component included in the program was systematically being implemented by MDM in 2009. Staff members from both GREFFA and MDM participated in trainings on psycho-social support to fistula victims.

Expected result 3.3.3: Malian surgeons able to perform reconstructive surgery of fistula patients

One new local surgeon is now being included in the fistula team at the hospital in Mopti. The total number of local surgeon in Mopti by the end of 2009 was three. The local surgeon underwent training in August from non Malian experts.

NCA Mali's work on early marriages is in its early stages.

One National day seminar on early marriages

The main aim of this workshop was to inform the political leaders about the high level of practice of early marriages in Mali, and the implications this practice has on the rights of the girl child in relation to the right to health and education. It was also an opportunity to lobby for a new Family Law being discussed by the National Assembly where the legal age of marriage for girls is set at 18. Today the legal age of marriage is 15 for girls and 18 for boys.

NCA undertook a baseline study of early marriages, reproductive health and human rights in Mopti and Gao in 2007, and in Timbuktu in 2008. The study will be used to develop a strategic plan to fight gender based violence. In March 2009 NCA organised a one day workshop in Bamako where the results of these studies were presented by the consultants. More than 100 people were present. Among these were people from civil society working on women's rights, representatives from local and national Government, international NGOs and representatives from embassies and the United Nations. Kirsten Engebak, the Head of Division for West and Southern Africa also participated. Three working groups were put in place to give recommendations on the following issues:

- Psycho-social support
- Human rights
- Reproductive health.

An important result of this workshop was the information given by the participant representing the Ministry of Justice. He informed the audience that the government was ready to present a new family law for the National Assembly where the legal age of girls were raised to 18 years old (For more information on the process on the Family Code, see above).

5.4 Food Security, Water and Environment

This is a vast program including access to clean water and increased food security for people and animals living in areas where water is limited and the basic infrastructure is lacking. The program is in addition focusing on developing the organisational and economic capacity of women which aims to give them more control over their own lives and the lives of their children hence women are often head of households in Mali but are seldom included in decision making processes. NCA Mali has during this period also been piloting a solar energies project aimed at giving poor people in rural areas access to electricity. Women are given a core role in this project.

Overall Goal 4: Improved water and food security and energy supply for communities in Northern Mali

Specific Objective 4.1: NCA develops a realistic partnership programme on food security

Expected Result 4.1.1: NCA and its partner organisations have increased their understanding of the food security situation and related interventions in Northern Mali

In the intervention zones of GRAIP, Soni Ali Ber and Taboye in Gao the target group has developed their 2009 action plans after having evaluated the food security situation in 2008. The sedentary population as well as the nomadic population have been informed of the laws existing in the area of food security and the politics implemented by the authorities. Local food security committees have been put in place.

10 emergency plans have been developed in 10 communes in Kidal in order to be better prepared for the difficult situation people are expecting in the beginning of 2010 due to the lack of rain in 2009. These meetings were an occasion to make a general assessment regarding the consequences of the limited rain experienced in 2009. The plans will be implemented by the city councils and will be evaluated next year. The execution of these plans will depend on the financial contribution of donors.

Expected result 4.1.3: NCA and partners have evaluated the former experience in the domain

In Kidal NCA worked to improve the management of 35 food stores 8 communes. The construction were completed in 2007/2008 but the following up has been difficult due insecurity in the region. Meetings were held in each commune to see how these food stores could be better managed to ensure access to food for the nomadic population.

An assessment was conducted of the 12 women's groups who received money for income generating activities. It has been hard to make the groups function well, due to displacement of the population, for insecurity reasons and due to drought. 12 women groups in three communes have been supported, totalling 387 women.

Expected result 4.1.6: Improved information sharing and knowledge development on food security matters of NCA partners for more effective and evidence-based intervention, lobbying and advocacy.

NCA's partners GRAIP and TASSAGHT in the region of Gao supported the target groups in the execution of their action plans. Women have clearly increased their participation in the planning process on how to decrease their vulnerability to food shortages. Consequently, the general population has started to question the leadership's management on food security.

Specific Objective 4.3 Pastoral Communities in Kidal and Gao (Gao is not included in the strategic plan) have increased their livestock production in a sustainable way.

Expected result 4.3.1: Local communities are able to identify and pilot activities for increased and sustainable livestock production intervention in Kidal and Gao (Gao is not included in the strategic plan).

Two fodder grain stores were put in place in the communes of Intillit and Tin Akokar in the region of Gao. The beneficiaries were organised through general assemblies to ensure proper management of the grain stores. The pastoralists in the 2 areas store fodder during periods of drought which make them less vulnerable. 12 committee members, including 8 women, were trained in how to manage the fodder and other administrative issues.

Specific Objective 4.4 Improved and sustainable energy supply in rural zones in the Timbuktu Region

Expected result 4.4.1: Increased capacity of community members at installing and maintaining village solar energy systems.

3 villages of the 12 planned have at the end of 2009 installed a solar electrification system. 279 households have at the moment access to electricity through this project. The 4th village will have the system installed in 2010. 3 women received 6 months training in India in 2009. The management committees in the 4 villages were put in place and the committees in Djegalia and Tindjambane that were having problems have been reorganised. In Tindjambane the users of the solar system have formally organised themselves in a “users organisation” in order to follow up the management committee better. If this initiative has a positive effect on the running of the system this will be introduced to the other villages as well. The women engineers are encountering few problems in maintaining the system.

The population in the villages reported positive changes in their living conditions after the introduction of electricity to their villages. They were able to continue with income generating projects after dark, the children improved at school as they could study at night, and the villagers now have more time in their fields, community meetings can be held after dark and savings have been made as the solar system is cheaper than other forms of lighting (candles, petrol for lamps, batteries etc) enabling more money to be spent on other essentials such as food and school materials. People feel also safer at night with light in the village. In addition people are better informed because they can watch TV, listen to the radio and charge their mobile phones. A certain level of pride has also developed, as the village sees progress and development within their own community.

Specific Objective 4.6: Capacity building of women’s organisations and development of strategies to enable them to take part in savings and credit groups

Expected result 4.6.2: Members of the savings and credit groups are using their own funds to start their own income generating projects

The savings groups started in Gao in 2007 and 2008 are all mobilising their own funds which allows their members to start income generating projects. 1000 members of these savings groups now have access to small loans which enables them to finance income generating projects. The women the saving groups in Gao has have been able to mobilise the amount of 3 840 370 FCFA/52 680 NOK

for the social funds. These funds make the members of the group able to take on charge expenditures needed for social affairs like illnesses, baptisms, marriage, school fees etc. The women in Gao borrowed 7 153 450 CFA/98 127 to invest in income generating projects.

Specific Objective 4.7: The savings and credit groups in Kidal and Gao have improved their organisational capacity

Expected result 4.7.1: Women who are member of savings and credit groups' steering committees have undergone training in alphabetisation

See Below.

Expected result 4.7.2: The groups have improved their income

37 saving groups were put in place in Kidal in the communes of Kidal, Aguel-Hoc, Anefif, Tessalit and Essouk in 2009. Initially ASSADDEC had planned to support 15 groups but due to the interest shown by the women they more than doubled the number planned. The first groups put in place in 2008 were able to organise themselves by 2009. By the end of 2009, 1,066 women were members of saving groups supported by ASSADDEC.

75 women members of the steering committees belonging to the different saving groups underwent training in basic alphabetisation, including calculations and how to keep the documents concerning their group enabling them to run the business of the group. The training lasted 45 days.

The saving groups are put in place to decrease the economic vulnerability of the women by giving poor women access to credit to develop small scale income generating initiatives. Consequently, some women have been able to build themselves a home; others have started small businesses or improved the businesses that they already ran. A spin off effect of this activity is the development of solidarity between the women that did not exist before due to lack of opportunities for meetings and discussion. This solidarity makes the women stronger hence they assist each other in times of difficulties. The groups are also used to discuss issues such as female education, HIV/AIDS, increased participation of women in public life and other important questions influencing the life of the women.

In Gao 12 new saving groups were put on place and training was organised in the MJT system (a traditional system for saving groups). 1,236 women are now members of savings groups followed by GRAIP.

Two training centres for women have been built in the communes of Anefif and Essouk in the region of Kidal. The centres have been equipped with sewing machines, and 12 women have been trained in sewing and cutting techniques. The centres and the trainings aim to reduce the economic vulnerability of the women and to make them less dependent on men.

3 sewing machines for making traditional leather items have been bought for the women groups in Kidal. The aim is to increase the quality of the product and hence make them easier to sell. In addition this is meant to increase the production capacity of the women. Earlier all the products were handmade.

5.5 Education

The level of education in the NCA intervention zones in Mali is weak in comparison to the rest of the country. This is especially true for girls. The quality of education at all levels is also weak.

Overall Goal 5: All children, and in particular girls, in the rural zones of Northern Mali access and finish primary education

Specific Objective 5.1 NCA disposes a programme and capacities to improve primary education in the Kidal region, favouring girls' enrolment.

See Below.

5.1.1. NCA has improved its understanding of the system of primary education, its strength and weaknesses in the nomadic zones of Kidal region.

See Below.

5.1.3 NCA has identified strategic directions, programme objectives and expected results, representing a clear added value, for its involvement in the primary education in Kidal Mali.

See Below.

Specific objective 5.2 Improved conditions for increased enrolment in primary schools in Northern Mali

NCA's operational project in Kidal

In 2009 NCA implemented a participatory assessment in the 12 schools that were chosen for support in Kidal. Action plans for each school were developed and will be followed up in 2010.

Both the climate and the history are hostile to education in Kidal. Support to the education sector by NCA in Kidal is meant to improve the wellbeing of both pupils and employees and to motivate them to attend regularly. Schools are often situated in remote areas without access to any service centers or shops of any kind. Livelihood support in the form of food was given to 49 teachers in 12 schools. 12 schools also received food support to the school canteens to motivate the parents to send their children whilst encouraging children to stay for a full day. A special focus emphasized the motivation of girls through the provision of school uniforms. 350 girls received school uniforms in 2009. To improve the quality of education, collaboration with the Centre d'Animation Pédagogique de Kidal and Tessalit was put in place. This centre is now responsible for following up the teachers on a regular basis.

The 12 schools supported by NCA saw an increase in the number of children going to school from 2008 to 2009. In 2008 1100 pupils went to school against 1210 in 2009. From this total of 1210, 404 were girls in 2008 against 469 in 2009. The number of pupils standing for exams also increased. In 2009 53 candidates, including 20 girls sat for primary schools exams. In 2008 the number was 43, including 13 girls. 51 of these candidates passed, including 19 girls in 2009. In 2008 the passing rate was 31, including 6 girls. An improvement in results is also seen at the level of Diplome d'Etudes Fondamentales (DEF). In 2008, 5 students passed. In 2009 this had increased to 12. At the high school level there has been no progress made so far. Only 5 people sat for exams in 2009. 3 passed. There were no girls at this level. The results seem to be slightly better at the schools supported by NCA than at other schools in the region. The passing rate at the primary school exams in the schools supported by NCA was 87.9 % against 85.67 in the region. The passing rate for the girls in NCA supported schools were 95 % against 67.39 % in the region in general.

The speed school project in Gao and Ménaka

The experimental speed school project started in 2008 in the region of Gao being extended to Ménaka in 2009. 20 speed schools were operational by the end of 2009 in Gao and Ménaka. 20 teachers have been trained, including 10 women.

87.67 % (142 pupils, including 72 girls) passed the exam in 2009 in the 10 centres opened in Gao in 2008. These children have been transferred to the 'classical', mainstream school at the 3rd and 4th level. These pupils once transferred to mainstream school are followed by NCA's partner organisation and the speed school teachers. The information reported suggested that following the transfer children have performed very well.

The capacity of the different actors relating to the schools has been improved through training on how to administrate the centres and on the role and responsibilities of the school committee members. The communes as well as the local communities are all participating in the running of these schools.

Saving groups have been organised for the mothers of the children in the speed school as a way of making them more interested in their children's education, and especially in the education of the girls. The idea is that the mothers will be more able to support their children if they are more economically independent.

5.6 Local Response to HIV/AIDS

Overall Goal 6 : In NCA target communities citizens are protected against HIV infection, and people affected by HIV are protected against discrimination and stigmatization, and have access to adequate care and support.

Specific Objective 6.1: Local communities are empowered to continue their fight against HIV/Aids independently

Expected Result 6.1.1: Increased capacity of local monitoring committees to plan and to coordinate the fight against HIV/Aids in their communities independently

See Below.

Expected Result 6.1.3: Citizens and local monitoring committees are empowered to engage local government and other relevant actors in the fight against HIV/Aids in their communities

See Below.

Expected Result 6.1.4: Citizens and local councils are able to mobilize resources to continue their fight against HIV/Aids

See Below.

Expected Results 6.1.5: NCA partners are able to facilitate the local response to HIV/Aids in their intervention zones

2009 was the last year of the HIV/AIDS program. The program has focused on mobilising the community to involve them in information dissemination to prevent the further spread of the disease and to fight stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS. It has also been crucial to motivate the local community to find ways of involving their leaders in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS. The community has also been involved in finding solution for the care of people infected or affected by the disease, including orphans. For the sustainability of the program effort has been made to strengthen the capacity of the partners to access other financial resources to continue their work.

In Kidal the HIV/Aids Steering Committees put in place to coordinate the fight against HIV in the region are now registered as independent organisations. This will make it easier for the target group to work independently of ASSADDEC when the funding ends in 2009. The organisations have been trained in resource mobilisation.

In the two municipalities in Gao, Soni Ali Ber and Taboye, the fight against HIV is included in the PDESC. The Steering Committees put in place in Gao have been facilitating local resource mobilisation meetings in order to raise money to execute the planned activities. The councils of Sony Ali Ber and Taboye together with GRAIP and Oxfam have been facilitating resource mobilisation meetings. 1 040 400 FCFA (NOK 14 272) was collected to support actions to fight the HIV/AIDS prioritised by the PDESC.

In the regions of Gao and Timbuktu networks of peer educators with great knowledge on HIV/AIDS exist and in Timbuktu an advocacy program has been put in place to raise money for the care of AIDS orphans.

An internal evaluation of the experience of NCA Mali and its partners was undertaken in 2009 (see under point 3 below).

5.7 Recuperation of Small Arms in Kidal

Overall Goal 7: Strengthening security in Kidal through the development of the local economy

Specific Objective 7.1: To create a peaceful environment in Kidal through the reduction of illegal weapons, decrease local conflicts, to normalise social relations, and the strengthening of the state authority

Expected Result 7.1.1: The formal structure of the project is put in place

The project was launched in Kidal 21st June. The team implementing the project in Kidal was recruited and operational immediately.

7.1.3 The process of recuperation, storage and destruction of small arms, and the registration of hunting weapons and more traditional weapons has been executed

11 local committees for the recuperation of small arms has been put in place (1 in each commune). 365 arms, 33 923 cartridges and 177 explosives, including 21 collective weapons have been collected. These arms are now stored in military barracks waiting to be destroyed. The collected arms will be destroyed publicly. Ceremonies of peace flames where the weapons will be burnt in front of the population are planned for 2010. One positive unintended result seems to be that this project has led to more confidence between the army based in Kidal and the population. The Colonel in charge of the storage of the weapons told us that it was a great pleasure to take part in a project where people turned in their weapons voluntarily.

This project is a high risk project with a lot of potential problems. The arms were collected faster than expected and it was deemed necessary to start at least one income generating project by the end of 2009 in order to show that NCA was keeping it's promise. One income generating project was started in the commune of Abeybara.

8. Overall goal: Consolidation of Peace in Northern Mali

Specific Objective 8.1 The stakeholders have consolidated peace processes in NCA's partners zones of intervention in Gao and Timbuktu

Expected result 8.1.1: The knowledge of conflict resolution and peace-building are strengthened
See Below.

Expected result 8.1.2: The efforts to consolidate peace are systemized

The main aim of this project was to mobilise the local community to engage in reconciliation processes and peacemaking in their area.

In 2009 the project was extended to two new circles (Asongo et Ménaka) and 4 communes (Menaka, Anderanboukane, Tin Hamma and Tessit). One committee in each circle and each commune was put in place and all resource persons in these committees were trained in conflict prevention, consolidation of peace, negotiation, mediation etc. A typology of the conflicts now exists. The 4 communes of intervention were selected. 8 teams have been put in place to negotiate with the conflicting parties as the conflicts have been identified. These teams have already started to work together to solve the conflict between the ethnic groups Peuhl and Tamasheq in the commune of Ansongo.

The committees put in place in the first communes in 2008 have received training and have been able to solve 10 conflicts in 2009. The methodology and the work being led by the Consortium Graip/Tassaght is well appreciated, hence communes that have so far not been included in the program are approaching the team to receive assistance to solve their conflicts. In order to consolidate the peace agreements actions need to be taken and conventions need to be signed to regulate the use of natural resources which are often the reason for the disputes. So far three communes have finalized their action plans: Temera, Soni Ali Ber and Ntililt. These plans focus on: training of elected officials and councilors and villagers, identification of their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of action plans, the organisation of villages and inter village meetings and fraction meetings, and an introduction to the development of local agreements. These action plans only have value if they are executed. The second phase is to ensure the inclusion of these action plans in the communal plans (PDESC which started as soon as the new elected leaders resumed their responsibilities after the local elections 2009. In the communes Temera, Soni Aly Ber and Intilit the elected leaders have shown a lot of determination to take these action plans into account when they are developing their communal plans. It seems there is a new consciousness around the fact that there will be no development without peace.

The project started in Timbuktu in Mai 2009. Two circles, Timbuktu and Gourma-Rharous and 15 communes were involved in the process. The following committees were put in place: 15 communal committees were put in place, 2 committees at the circle level and one committee at the regional level. In all 15 communes a typology of conflicts was undertaken. A report has been compiled with the following information on the 15 communes: the site of the conflict, the nature of the conflict, the communes concerned, the current state of conflict, and the duration of the conflict. The result of this data collection was presented in the 2 circles. 4 communes of intervention were chosen according to specified objective criteria. The communes chosen: Bourem Inaly and Ber in the circle of Timbuktu and Rharous and Séréré in the circle of Gourma-Rharous. The committees in the 4 chosen communities were trained in the Approche Inter Communautaire de Gestion de Conflit (AIC).

The communal committees participated in the development of the communal action plan, PDESC to remind the communes of the importance of including the dimensions of conflict management in the PDESC. The committee in Séréré has developed its Action Plan 2009 to 2011. The action plan was also endorsed by the Mayor of the town of Serere. In 2010 the teams put in place in the region of Timbuktu will start to work on concrete conflicts.

A lot of peace initiatives exist in Mali but the strength with the methodology developed and used in this program called the "Inter Community Approach" provides a way of dealing systematically with the conflicts as they occur demanding participatory engagement from the grass roots level up to the regional level. This tool has been operational since 2008. An evaluation of this programme was conducted in 2009 (see under point 3 below).

2.3.2 Mauritania

NCA supports three programs in Mauritania: The capacity building of the Mauritanian Coalition of Publish What you Pay, the Women's Human rights project and the Integrated Community Development Program (ICD). The ICD program consists of 6 different programs: Emergency, Sustainability, Livelihoods, HIV/AIDS, Human Rights, Peace and reconciliation, Gender, and Environment.

2009 was the first year LWF Mauritania implemented the right based integrated capacity building approach presented in the Project document 2009-2011 and the Country Strategy 2009-2014. This new approach was piloted in Hod el Gharbi and Hodh el Chargi, on community capacity building in the transition areas (areas from which LWF was about to withdraw). The implementation of this approach has been followed by the following activities: A socio-economical survey of households with specific poverty criteria taking into account the gender aspect, and capacity building for persons and communities for a period of 6 to 9 months which consisted of different trainings. The LWF staff also needed training in order to implement this new approach. The aim of the training was to give the communities the capacity to take care of their own development. 80 groups, 40 in rural areas and 40 in urban areas were identified, trained and accompanied in 2009.

Certain communities remain attached to traditions and face difficulties in changing their mentality towards human rights and management of the environment. The change from the old approach towards a new one as adopted by LWF, met with difficulties for partner NGO's that function as intermediates between communities and LWF, as well as with certain members of staff within LWF. A particular emphasis was devoted to this challenge and to overcome it, a strategy based on communication and training was adopted as a learning and explanation tool. This has caused some delays in the commencement of activities throughout the year.

LWF developed a new strategy in 2008 which covers the period 2009-2014. The report is based on this new strategy and not according to NCA's strategic document for Mauritania 2005-2009. For the bilateral project PWYP NCA will report according to the application approved by Norad in 2009.

2.3.2.1 Integrated Community development program

Specific objective 1: The targeted communities are assisted and prepared to immediately face situations created by natural disasters due to climate change (droughts, flooding, and locust invasion) and complex emergency situations like conflict and migration.

Indicator 1: More than 50% of target communities have gained skills to face emergency situations in rural and urban areas.

The communities targeted have acquired skills and know-how to better face emergencies in the rural and urban areas through capacity reinforcement of the targeted communities. This is about basic organization at community level for the identification of needs and rapid alert in case of an emergency, through the establishment of emergency committees. The communities started to organize themselves in groups and started to develop emergency prevention plans with the assistance of LWF. In Trarza together with the convention of child protection in emergency situations, the communities and partners organized a network that has been equipped to deal with emergency awareness and preparedness.

Results achieved according to activity based indicators.

1.1 An immediate response to emergency situations is facilitated.

The distribution of commodities has been of assistance to certain communities affected by flooding in 2009. The assistance to destitute families and victims of disasters has allowed communities to manage the immediate effects of the emergency. The distribution of vitamin enriched BP5 biscuits allowed beneficiaries to balance the general malnutrition. In order to improve the use of these biscuits a training workshop was organized for partners to ensure distribution to the affected population. One training session was organized for the benefit of 25 persons (facilitators and contact persons 15 women and 10 men) on the importance of community preparedness in emergency situations. Staff were provided with training on the use of a GPS in order to improve general security.

1.2 The social infrastructures are rehabilitated.

The long and difficult task of digging 3 wells of 55 meters deep each, and to equip the wells with equipment in the localities of Windou, M'Babe, Belel Koyel, and Ferugu was completed. The repatriated communities from Senegal and Mali can affirm the importance of available drinking water.

Specific objective 2: The target communities are empowered to reach a level of sustainable and holistic development that will raise them beyond the threshold of poverty.

Indicator 2: Most of the group's community members are involved in a process of sustainable development.

1,934 families in both urban as well as rural settings and in collaboration with local partners have followed training, awareness raising campaigns, and received reinforcement of financial capital. Community development initiatives have been recorded in an evaluation survey with groups in urban settings and in the Hodh's rural areas. The result of the survey was that the communities have been involved in their own sustainable development processes. In the transition areas communities have acquired technical know-how and competences that they did not have before. The production capacity of vegetable gardens has been reinforced and the products diversified to provide a quality household diet.

Results achieved according to activity based indicators.

2.1 Agro-forestry and pastoral production systems improved

In the intervention areas considered transition areas (Brakna, Gorgol, Trarza), communities produced seeds for home use. The program has introduced training sessions on improved management and technical skills. Part of the produce is now sold on local markets. In order to reduce post harvest losses due to bad storage conditions, communities were given training on food transformation and conservation techniques. This has allowed communities to alleviate the shortfalls during the period of reduced food availability. Example of activities executed: 2500 people were trained in the right based approach in Debaye Hel Ganki and Gorgol. 3 agricultural technical training sessions in have been organised. 2 in Hodh el Chargi and 1 in Hodh el Gharbi. 8 men and 32 women benefitted from the trainings. 5 vegetables gardens have been realized in Brakna, Hods, Sabar in Gorgol, and in Trarza. Seeds have been bought and distributed for the benefit of 8 sites in Brakna, Gorgol, and Trarza. 6 cereal banks have been rehabilitated.

2.2 The diversification of production systems is promoted and encouraged

Thanks to technical training and capacity building, communities now produce various varieties of foods (tomatoes, onions, salads, carrots, cabbage, eggplant, lady's finger etc). This has also encouraged the improvement of people's cooking practices and the nutritional status of the communities. Before people would cultivate vegetables but not consume them because of ignorance about the nutritional values of the various vegetables.

Three new techniques have been introduced; vegetable conservation, and seed conservation.

2.3 Appropriate systems of income generating activities are introduced.

In the transition areas, it was the introduction of new techniques to transform local grain crops (enriched flour) that enabled an improvement in the nutritional situation of vulnerable sections of the community, like children, women, and the elderly. Training sessions on the conservation and use of enriched flour have been held. Income generating activities have been introduced through technical training on dyeing, dress making, and village store management. The commercialization of first need commodities has allowed women to gain time for other activities and prevent long displacements to other sites.



In the rural areas of Hodh el Gharbi and Hodh el Charghi, 120 women have been supported with income generating activities in the field of tanning, vegetable production and commercialization, and village butcheries. In urban areas 39 groups of 25 members (all women) have been trained in management techniques that

will guarantee the development of their income generating activities in a transparent manner reflecting good governance. These activities have allowed the improvement of living conditions in households, but also for the establishment of capital by means of a saving scheme.

Support on income generating activities was granted to 52 Associations of which: 15 were in Gorgol, 5 in Brakna, 6 in Trarza and 26 in Nouakchott.

2.4 The access to and control of basic social services are facilitated

Certain locations have benefitted from rehabilitation of health posts. Two health centers have been rehabilitated in Toumbouyali and Dhar M'Dir in Trarza. Also in the province of Brakna, a health post was rehabilitated in Mohamd Zein and two health workers have been retrained for the management

of this health unit. These health posts benefit not only the village community but also the communities around the village. One capacity building exercise has been held on reproductive health targeting traditional midwives. The communities express the importance of these activities and the pride they feel when children are born in these infrastructures that would otherwise have required very risky trips to clinics kilometers away.

In urban settings, a spirit of responsibility and creativity towards advocacy has developed with community groups, in order to secure access to social services. The groups now address local Government structures to claim their right to be assisted.

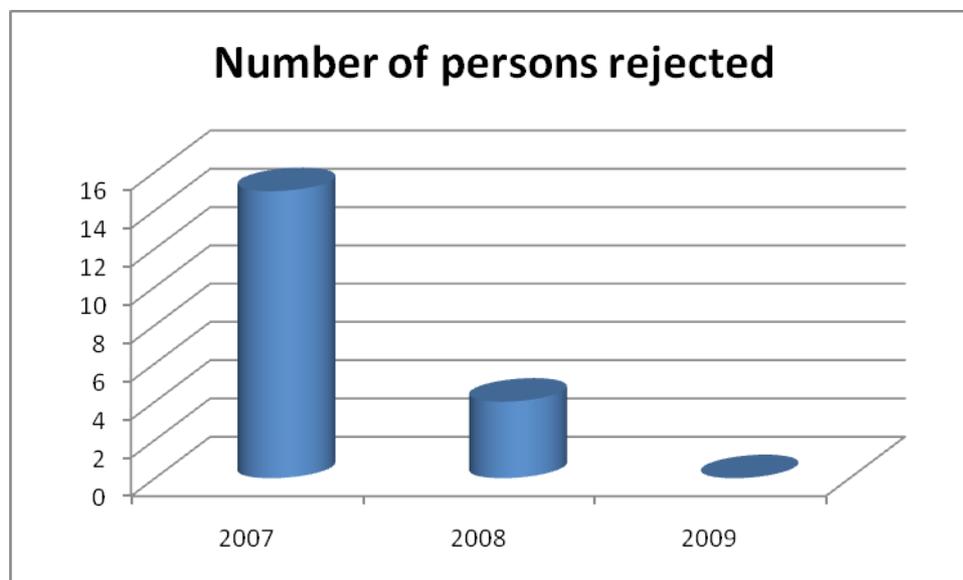
Specific objective 3: The spread of HIV-AIDS, the stigmatization of persons living with AIDS and at risk of acquiring AIDS, and their impact on society are gradually reduced.

Indicator 3: The target groups have assimilated the key information on HIV-AIDS prevention, Human rights, and laws on sustainable management of natural resources.

The training and awareness raising sessions organized for the groups have allowed for:

- Increased knowledge on the ways HIV-AIDS is transmitted
- The prevention and care of persons affected or infected by HIV

A good level of awareness has been established in both rural as well as urban settings on the rights of persons affected by or infected with HIV and on the rejection of stigmatization. Awareness raising sessions on the importance of testing and early caretaking have been carried out to ensure communities are capable of fulfilling this role.



In urban settings, as shown in the graph, the HIV-AIDS project represents the issue of caretaking of rejected persons. No case of rejection has been registered in 2009 by the NGO "Espoir et Vie", the reception centre LWF supported in 2009. In comparison 15

persons were registered in 2007 and 4 persons in 2008.

A survey conducted by LWF in December 2009 shows that knowledge and acceptance regarding persons living with HIV-AIDS has been well established plus a systematic rejection of stigmatization by all groups interviewed. The interventions during training sessions indicate clearly that a change of mentality has occurred. Persons living with HIV-AIDS who participated in the sessions carried out, showed solidarity among their peers and have organized themselves in an association called: « L'Association des Personnes Infectées ou Affectées au Trarza pour la Lutte contre le VIH-SIDA »

Results achieved according to activity based indicators.

3.1 People living with HIV/AIDS are no more hiding; they are in associations that multiply.

33 training sessions organised for the benefit of 2,665 contact persons (2000 women and 665 men) representing groups and cooperatives.

3.4 Rejection by families and communities is reduced

Following 13 awareness raising sessions stigmatization has reduced significantly from 2007 to 2009 which is confirmed by the openness shown by persons living with HIV-AIDS to declare their status in national media and other platforms.

Specific objective 4: The communities with which LWF Mauritania works are well experienced in their rights, prevention and management of conflicts and are progressively being among decision makers at local and international levels.

Indicator 4: By 2011 the rate of violent conflicts between communities has decreased by 20% thanks to the efficient action of leaders, the management by mediation committees working with the program

The capacity building process that started in 2009 has stressed the knowledge of Rights and the management of conflicts. Resource persons have already been trained; they represent focal points with mediation committees at community level. Associations have been formed, of which 8 associations / unions have been created in the framework of conflict resolution.

Results achieved according to activity based indicators.

4.1 LWF targeted groups participate actively in decision making.

71 training and evaluation sessions have been held on the rights of citizens, for the benefit of 1,769 persons (1,512 women and 257 men). 81 community groups have been set up, trained, shaped, and sensitized for better participation in decision making.

4.3 Laws and conventions are better known and used.

Thanks to sensitization in the field of human rights, environment and others, communities are better informed on laws and conventions that concern them, like the Constitution, the labor law, the environmental law, and legal instructions on FGM. Family law and related national laws have been extensively popularized. As a witness of success group members now engage in family conflicts, civil status of communities, and support to women in difficulties. We also note an increased involvement of women as contact persons serving their communities. Women groups that are members of parent-teachers associations now claim the application of the law regarding the schooling of children and the schooling of girls in particular.

4.4 LWF target groups claim peacefully their rights and fully enjoy them.

8 groups of leaders (economically privileged intellectuals who are considered duty bearers by the LWF) in the field of capacity building, identified vulnerable groups for advocacy on human rights. They adhere to a rights based approach and actively participate in capacity building. In spite of considerable efforts by communities in confidence building and knowledge on their rights, efforts are still needed in the field of advocacy. LWF feels that the organization for advocacy on schooling and the attendance of teachers at schools is still insufficient.

Specific objective 5: Men and women from partner communities are considered equal with regards to their fundamental rights.

Indicator 5: By 2011, men and women in the partner communities are satisfied of their participation in decision making.

The reinforcement of capacity of women and men through better knowledge of their rights has allowed for a real awareness improvement of their rights and the need to apply them in the local and national development process as supported by this witness:

Vatimettou Mint Abdelmaolé is a community contact person with the groups in Sebkha. Born in 1983 in Nouakchott, married early (at the age of 16) and mother of 3 children she is a housewife. 'For years after leaving high school I never explored responsibilities other than being a housewife. But thanks to the training, encouragements, and supervision that I received from LWF all my buried talents came back to life and I have discovered that I can contribute many things to my community.'

Results achieved according to activity based indicators.

5.1 The women participation rate in local development activities has increased.

Responsible women have formed small groups and have been able to steer a community development process with high performance rates in management and planning. In the capacity building process 12 trainings on self confidence, democracy, and transparency have been conducted by the program staff targeting community contact persons. These 5 groups reached an acceptable level of organization, ready for project implementation in 2010.

70% of the groups have elected their officials on the basis of qualifications required to accomplish the tasks set. These included the establishment of internal regulations specifying democratic decision making modalities and also the means and strategy for transparent financial resource management within the groups, as well as a monthly financial reporting system.

5.2 Women are aware of their rights and claim them.

7 awareness campaigns have been supported on the rights of women in rural and urban settings. Only 3 cases of violation of women's rights i.e. right to respect, security, and justice (divorce, child support, and gender violence) have been declared, 2 of which have been dealt with by a mediation committee at neighborhood level. Only 1 case has been referred to a judiciary body in Arafat, and the case is being processed.

5.3 Positions of responsibility are equally divided between men and women in local development activities.

10 training sessions and 8 awareness sessions have been conducted on citizen's rights for the benefit of 223 persons (170 women and 53 men). These training and awareness sessions have allowed for the development of communication and leadership skills. At this stage 70% of leadership positions with groups are occupied by women.

Specific objective 6: The social-economic infrastructures are protected from abusive interventions and are used in a sustainable and equal manner between members of partner communities.

Indicator 6: Partner communities have a better perception of the importance to protect their social-economic infrastructures; to rehabilitate and to use in a sustainable and equal manner their natural resources.

With 3 partners in the two Hodh provinces, 10 awareness sessions and training for the benefit of 1748 persons (1398 women and 350 men) in various communities were conducted on pastoral laws and forestry laws. Neighborhood watch groups have been formed against bush fires, and the illegal cutting of trees. Signs of increased awareness with more respectful behavior towards environment and hygiene has been observed. The establishment of a permanent community based health and sanitation system in collaboration with municipalities in LWF's intervention areas may have helped in this process.

Results achieved according to activity based indicators.

6.1 Communities are able to take care of their environment and use preventive measures.

Thanks to community sensitization, communities have been able to create tree nurseries and to produce their trees with the objective of planting them at sites to stop the advance of sand dunes. These are the first nurseries created by the community on their own initiative. They produced 800 trees (Prosopus, Neem and Panicum grass). In certain communities people have been trained and sensitized on hygiene and sanitation, and on how to put this into practice (Campaigns on cleaning inside and around the house).

6.2 Healthy environmental practices to enable improved food production and create new sources of income for communities.

Signs of increased awareness manifest itself behavior that respects the environment and hygiene. Families start to organize themselves to remove garbage and engaged themselves in advocacy activities with the city council for a site where garbage can be taken. Together with the neighborhood councils a more permanent community system is being set up for improved health and sanitation. This is the starting point for organized garbage collection that can become a source of income generation. Activities to enable improved food production will be started when funding allows (not done so far).

Impact

There is an increased awareness in the transition areas and the areas with the new approach, by the communities and especially with women on the need to actively engage themselves in local development activities. The level of community participation has increased notably and there has been a regular exchange between those elected and their communities on economic and social activities.

By learning new techniques on production and transformation communities acquired the know-how allowing them to improve their livelihoods considerably. Communities in the transition areas discuss the topic of LWF's withdrawal calmly because they have acquired the necessary skills to continue to manage the projects under way and to develop other projects.

In areas where the new approach has started, the basis of community capacity building, the selection of target groups according to specific criteria per person, and the assistance to the groups to establish themselves, has been well received in spite of reservations here and there. The level of organization and awareness of groups in urban and rural settings is impressive. For example, in Arafat, LWF introduced group organization process, which were then expanded and replicated by the communities themselves without further LWF involvement. This encourages the program team and local partners to address development problems in a calm and composed manner in 2010. The adherence of whole communities to LWF's approach is a sign of their engagement that will allow for the development of a firm basis for advocacy with assured success. Furthermore during a workshop in Trarza, where one of the expected results was to re-engage local partner organizations, it was noted that the methodology used inspired the participants to the extent that they voiced their desire not only to create area networks, but also to organize exchange visits between areas in order to develop a coalition of area networks in Trarza affiliated to Human rights and development in Trarza. They expressed the desire for additional training. It resulted in a collective mobilization of basic community organizations on the need for collaboration and sharing of experiences for a better performance in their activities related to sensitization and production.

LWF has noted an important improvement in feeding habits. Women were able to gain time previously lost by going to other centers for food provisions and first necessities. This time gained

they invested in other income generating activities like dyeing, dress making, and the production of baby food.

The new awareness on rights and duties allowed communities in the areas of the new approach like Nouakchott urban areas and the rural settings in the two Hodhs, to better respect their family obligations and community obligations. Quotable examples include respect for a child's education for both girls and boys. Very vigilant groups follow up on schooling of children, and other groups have been following hygiene as a particular issue of concern. Also on the issue of rights, more and more questions are tabled with community arbitration committees for peaceful resolution before going to courts.

This year LWF was able to show that in spite of challenges related to the retreat from old project areas and the radical change in approach, it was able to address crucial issues whilst at the same time respecting partners at all levels, communities, civil society, and Government.

2.3.2.2 Bilateral projects in Mauritania

The human rights project for women

The bilateral project is supporting activities in the integrated development program so I'm using the objective from the integrated development plan.

5. Gender

Specific Objective 5: Woman and men from partner communities have equal fundamental rights

Activities: To protect women against violence and to provide assistance to victims of violence

LWF has started a network with its partner organisations with the aim of contributing positively to the National plan to fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) developed by the Government, and to fight other fatal practices forced on women and girls. The strategic alliance now consists of 20 urban and rural organisations.

In 2009 actions were taken to strengthen the network in various themes such as management, coordination, transparency, democracy in action, good governance, conflict resolution, advocacy, rights based approach, and collective responsibility. The individual member organisations were strengthened on the same themes. A tool on women's rights and FGM was developed and will be used to train local facilitators. Information and awareness raising campaigns were implemented at a local level. Religious and traditional leaders as well as local facilitators assisted in the distribution of messages against FGM and other harmful practices on girls and women.

The health workers and executors of excision were identified and trained to be aware of the fatal effects of FGM and other mal practices, through the same information campaigns. The population, including community partners and trendsetters in the villages are in the process of acquiring a better understanding about the fatal effects of FGM and other mal practices. They are now implementing their new understanding their local settings.

With the communities in the intervention areas, Human rights have been improved for women and girls through sessions of human rights education. The Religious and Traditional leaders are ready to sign a contract for counteracting FGM and other mal practises because they are now convinced of it's necessity. The Health workers are more committed and ready to raise awareness to prevent new mothers of girls from practicing FGM and other mal practises and are implementing their new understanding of FGM through information in their setting.

A system of data collection has been put in place to collect information on the impact of the

messages in the communities, on girls between 0 and 5 years.

Capacity building visit, Gro Hillestad Thune, Human Rights Lawyer².

Mrs Thune is used to strengthen the network on Human Rights issues related to girl and women. The objective of the visit in april 2009 to follow up work done previous years to give technical advise to the network to fight Female Genital Mutilation put in place by LWF. She was also there to participate in the organizing and conducting of a workshop on human rights, with particular focus on female genital mutilation (FGM). The workshop was a follow up of a similar event organised in 2008 where representatives of NGOs, UNICEF and the Government met to discuss various practical steps that should be taken in order to combat the practice of FGM in particular on local level. Gro made following recommendations from her visit in 2009:

- NCA should continue its support to the good and practical work conducted by FLM and Holey Tall in favour of better human rights protection of women. The organization is playing an important role as main support and coordinator of the NGOs, many of these organizations are small. It is important to have an experienced organization to learn from and work with on issues like FGM, early marriage, trafficking and lack of schooling.
- Norwegian support should be given to shadow reports where ideas, concerns and recommendations are written down and made available for international control bodies, international organizations and the national authorities. This seems to provide a kind of support where costs are relatively modest compared to the output. It is recommended to provide NGOs with a simple guide translated into French and Arabic.
- A substantial amount of Norwegian money is donated to UNICEFs work against FGM during the last years; this has been given high priority. What we have observed in Mauritania is not particularly encouraging and indicates a need for the Norwegian authorities to look into the way this money is being spent. What is the situation as regards internal coordination within the organization, the level of professional assistance from the headquarters to the national UNICEF offices in various African countries as well as the coordination and exchange of experience among the local UNICEF offices operating in those countries where FGM is still a common practice. It should be of great concern that UNICEF in such a small state as Mauritania so openly admits that the lack of coordination between UNICEF, the national authorities and the NGOs involved in the type of activity is a major problem. This should lead to questions being asked about the co-ordination within UNICEF itself as well as between UNICEF offices across national borders. What support is actually given from the UNICEF headquarters to those responsible for the work against FGM at state level? And how are successes and failures in various places shared and used in order to improve the performance? What are the lessons learned, how are they made available and to whom?
- The Norwegian authorities should look into the possibility of getting more involved in the serious problem of trafficking of very young girls which seems to be increasing in a poor and vulnerable country like Mauritania. A fact finding mission could be financed and organized in order to acquire more knowledge about the ongoing trafficking ie to Saudi Arabia and the wide spread problem of early marriage preventing girls from necessary schooling. The same recommendation can be made to acquire more accurate knowledge about the problem of early marriages.
- The Norwegian diplomatic representation in Mauritania should be asked to provide information about the establishment of a National Institution of Human Rights (based on the Paris principles adopted by the UN). The establishment of such an institution was one of the proposals made in the national Plan d'Action for human rights some years ago. It would be useful for future work in relation to human rights and women's rights in Mauritania to know

² Thune works at the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo. She has 15 years experience at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

what this institution is doing with the problem of FGM, trafficking, early marriage and other problems facing young girls.

Capacity building of the Mauritanian Coalition of Publish what you Pay

The overall development goal: Poverty reduction through transparent and just management of natural resources

Specific Objective: Improved citizen engagement in the monitoring of revenues from the oil and mining sector.

Expected results 1: At the end of 2009 PWYP-M is well equipped in understanding participating contracts and budget monitoring

The participants at the capacity building training with PETRAD in Stavanger on good governance, transparency and the management of natural resources such as oil and gas have been shared with the members of PWYP in the coalition. The members are now better equipped to understand basic information on the oil sector which better enables them to change the behaviour of political leaders and to influence decision making processes. The members have been identifying areas of advocacy work and have developed an action plan for lobbying on issues such as human rights, environment and Health.

The coalition was trained in the rights based approach methodology by LWF. After the training the coalition went to train local PWYP committees in the in the mining cities, Akjoujt and Zouérate. Regional PWYP committees have also been trained and are participating fully in advocacy networking groups.

Many of the PWYP staff and members attended a 6 month English course in order to facilitate communication with other African and worldwide campaigns.

Several mass media campaigns were held to inform the population in their own languages that natural resources like oil, and gold belong to all Mauritians and that they are entitled to some of the revenues in terms of infrastructure and common social services. Revenues from the extraction of oil have been published, and many articles in local newspapers have been written to inform people on the realities in the oil industry.

PWYP Mauritania has been in Accra, Ghana to learn about taxation and how to avoid corruption. They also visited Mali to exchange experiences on gold mining.

Expected results 2: At the end of 2009, throughout the member network, the coalition is leading the activity of collecting and distributing information, and doing budget monitoring in the towns of Akjoujt, Zouérate and Nouadhibou

A Regional Campaign in Akjoujt, Imraguen area (around Mamkhar))

PWYP has conducted a study on the impact of oil extraction on the economic activity of the Imraguen economy. The Imraguen are fishermen living in Banc. For centuries they have been fishing mullet which is a rare species. They live along Atlantic Ocean not far from the Chinguity field (oil field). The activity consisted of Gathering data on the impact of the oil industry on the environment and the production of mullet, building a human rights network among community members, building pressure groups, and the collection of pictures and others relevant information.

A workshop was organized to share information with parliamentarians and journalists on the oil industry to better understand relevant issues on this sector, highlighting where corruption and bad governance seems to be endemic.

PWYP Mauritania is working with universities and research institutes. The students can become a very important pressure group and can contribute to pressure for transparency by being involved through their studies on oil, environment, mine and other related topics.

PWYP has offered students the opportunity of visiting its office for more information.

Expected results 3: The organisation is advocating for the involvement of parliamentarians to ensure greater transparency of the extractive industries (development of a legal framework)

2009 was marked by political instability in form of a coup d'Etat in August 2009. This event made the implementation of activities directly related to political decision makers complicated. PWYP decided to focus on the training and information work in communities outside the capital but directly experiencing the effect of the extractive industries.

During this difficult period PWYP Mauritania made significant steps forward, and is now a member of the Mauritanian EITI and one of the EITI committees most active and knowledgeable partners.

2.4 Were there any special internal and external conditions that significantly affected the implementation of the annual plan

Mali and Mauritania will be discussed in this chapter.

Mali

External events

Two major national events had some impact on the implementation of work in 2009.

Municipality elections in 2009

Mali organised municipality elections 26th April 2009. This was the 3rd municipality elections since the inception of the decentralisation reform in Mali in 1999. NCA, especially in Kidal, works in close relationship with elected leaders at regional and municipality level. During the election campaign the elected leaders were busy campaigning to preserve their seats at the regional or local level. After the election it took considerable time for the new councillors to be installed. This delayed the start of activities in the region of Kidal which made the workload very high towards the end of 2009 and some activities had to be delayed to 2010.

A great challenge for NCA in Kidal is the fact that some of the mayors and councilors are not based in the municipalities where they have been elected due to the non existence of infrastructure and the general insecurity situation. At the same time some of the communes have not employed personnel. This situation makes it extremely difficult to work in these municipalities hence there is physically no one to work with. This situation is also a challenge for ADAGH which is supposed to give technical assistance to the councils in their municipalities. They often end up being secretaries for the communes instead of providing capacity building which will have an impact on the sustainability of efforts. NCA will review the role and responsibilities of the communes and ADAGH in 2010.

The new Family Law.

The new Family Law that **most Malians thought would be adapted by the National Assembly in August this year, and approved by the President, took another surprising turn. Mali's President Amadou Toumani Touré decided to return the new family law that would have granted women**

more rights to parliament, for review. Although President Touré says he supports the legislation, he decided not to sign it after it was rejected by the country's High Islamic Council (HIC).

The High Islamic Council mobilized around 50 000 people in Bamako to demonstrate against the law. Following several small and big demonstrations initiated by HIC the President decided to return the law for a second reading. The explanation given by the president was that he wanted to keep the country together and avoid polarizing Malians.

A provision which sparked particular controversy was the replacement of an article stipulating that a wife has to obey her husband with the phrase that once married, husbands and wives owe each other "loyalty, protection, help and assistance". The President of the High Islamic Council Mahmud Dicko says that in Mali: "The head of the family is the man, and everyone has to obey him." The law also raises the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18, defines marriage as a secular institution and gives widows and children born outside marriage greater inheritance rights.

The woman's movement that has been participating in the long process of developing this law was shocked by this news, and at the end of 2009 nobody really knew what would happen to the law in parliament. Malians are surprised by the anger that this law raised in the Islamic brotherhood, and they feel that the state is under threat. The Muslim leaders state that that they are boycotting the legislation because it is against Islam.

There is no doubt that these actions executed by the religious leaders have created tensions and fears in the Malian society. The women's movement and others working on strengthening the rights of women in Mali are at the movement lying low as they are trying to find a way forward. Several organisations have suspended some of their activities in order to avoid threats from the High Islamic Council. NCA took greater care with its advocacy work against female genital mutilation and the implementation strategy of the program against early marriages will also be reviewed.

It is hard to say what the public in general think about the content of the new law. It seems like the National Assembly and civil society groups did not inform the general public well on the content of the law before it went for ratification, with the consequence that the population became victims of the Islamic leaders' interpretation.

Food Security

The rainfall in 2009 was less than expected in the NCA northern Mali intervention zones. This has created a lot of anguish and unpredictability regarding the harvest. Lack of water and pasture land have serious implications for both sedentary people and nomads in the area. The effects of the drought are multiple. Some stock breeders have lost many of their animals due to the lack of water. This increases the vulnerability of the people by reducing their meagre income as stock prices fall and cereal and fodder prices rise. Lack of water and a good harvest are also forcing families to migrate. The nomads will bring their animals to areas where they find water and food, the farmers will look for work in the southern part of Mali or in neighbouring countries like Ghana, Togo, Niger, the Ivory Coast and Libya among others. The mobility of the people makes it harder for NCA and its partners to work with long term development projects and capacity building whilst people are dispersed in search of water and pasture land or work. Clearly, when people are struggling hard to make ends meet it is more challenging to mobilise them for long term development activities.

The Security Situation in Northern Mali

The security situation showed signs of improvement in 2009, especially in the region of Kidal. The armed groups operating in the areas since 2007 agreed to deposit their arms at central points, a process celebrated with small peace fires and the burning of guns in public locations in Gao and Kidal. The more radical leader Ibrahim ag Bahanga also laid down his gun and was willing to engage in peace talks late in 2009. This gives hope in the region. In September, the UN decided to reduce

the security level for parts of Kidal Region from security level 3 (no go area) to 2 (essential travel). This includes Kidal city, the surrounding municipalities and the road between Kidal and Gao. The security in Kidal is still volatile but in 2009 NCA Kidal could restart work in the communes which had been impossible in 2008.. This opened up for increased exchange visits and information sharing between the three NCA offices in Mali, which again had a positive impact on the quality of our work.

There is an urgent need for employment or income generating activities to reintegrate former rebel soldiers and youth in Kidal. The Government has launched a huge plan to achieve this. However, few concrete activities have materialized and critics say that the plan does not address fundamental problems such as the lack of education, that it is too complicated and that it will be insufficient. Both Malian officials and international donors express lack of confidence that the plan will work, and it is far from fully financed. The reality is that very few international NGOs are operating in Kidal which creates great on the few that do function, including NCA.

However, despite the fragile peace in the Northern part of Mali, work continues. There are still incidents related to car thefts attributed to both Al Quaida and Salafist groups that operate the region. Real concerns emerged towards the end of the year after the hostage taking and other acts of banditry in the region of Gao. This led to a repatriation of all expatriates based in the three Northern regions. NCA with only local staff working in Gao and Kidal was less affected by these events but considerable efforts are spent analysing the situation, going to security meetings etc. that should have been spent on more quality work.

Internal factors

NCA Mali introduced a new format for operational budgets and also worked on improving the way of budgeting for administrative costs and program costs which should provide a better impression of the work undertaken.

The budget cuts imposed from Oslo due to reduced NCA own funds reduced flexibility and impacted upon certain planned projects. The decision to celebrate the 25th anniversary of NCA in Mali was also time consuming and led also to cancelling of certain planned activities.

The group Local Democratic Governance Group (LDG) is still a time consuming process for several reasons. The centralized planning of four international organization is highly time consuming, requiring different administrative, planning and implementation methods to be synchronized. Reporting has been extremely time consuming involving implementation and central office staff, but has been an interesting learning tool.

Mauritania

It seems like the elections in Mauritania did not affect the work of our partner LWF too much. The situation is in general calm and the new government's willingness to tackle issues like corruption and security has been appreciated in Mauritania as well as by the international community. Investments are picking up and diplomatic relations with EU, Iran and Venezuela are about to develop. Some former ministers and other leaders who used to be untouchable are now going to jail or are threatened by jail if they are not willing to resettle stolen public money.

The main challenge facing the country is security. In 2009 Westerners were kidnapped in Mauritania and kept in the Malian desert by a Maghreb branch of Al Qaida leading to tensions between Mauritania and Algeria on the one hand and Mali on the other. Mauritania and Algeria favored no terrorist release and no payment of ransoms for hostages held. Mali under pressure from France did release 4 suspected terrorists in order to release 1 French hostage. The security situation remains tense especially for expatriates who risk being kidnapped by local bandits and being sold to Al Qaida as hostages. In reality this means reduced mobility and travel for expatriate staff and visitors from

abroad, especially to the East and North East of the country. Monitoring and programme support has therefore been reduced although the use of local staff from NCA in Mali to undertake field work enables work to continue.

2.5 Results and risks: Is it probable that the projects/programmes will achieve their goals, or is there a risk of major changes?

Mali and Mauritania are included in this chapter.

Mali

Most of NCA and partner projects in Mali will achieve their goals. However, there are some factors that might have an impact on the probability of achieving the goals:

The security situation is still fragile in Northern Mali. In 2009 there were some positive developments especially in the region of Kidal. However several security incidents occurred in the last quarter of the year especially in the region of Gao indicating that the development process is still under threat. (more details under 2.5). The quality of NCA's work is at risk if follow up is restricted in northern Mali. However, activities are likely to continue though issues of planning and implementation will have to be discussed at length if the security changes.

The fact that most of NCA's local partners in Mali are rather young and structurally weak is another risk to the effective implementation of the 5 year plan. However, NCA is continuously supporting capacity building efforts of its partners, and many improvements have taken place over the last year, both in the area of financial management and more programme related issues (see also point 2.4 above and 2.7 below).

Working in Northern Mali is very time and money consuming due to long distances. Working in regions with highly mobile populations due to both a nomadic lifestyle but also among sedentary communities due to extreme poverty and drought make it harder to achieve set goals. It is hard to consolidate the achieved results when the population is so mobile. The climatic situation with long periods of droughts provides a highly marginal working environment with the communities constantly wavering from development to emergency and therefore restricting many long term initiatives.

Mauritania

The new integrated human rights approach has progressed well and is already starting to make an impact. The approach has been well received by the communities but local authorities and some local partners are still not familiar with the process and have had some problems in adapting to a system built on decentralization and transparent participatory processes. However, this will not prevent the program from attaining its set goals.

2.6 Which concrete measures have been implemented to ensure administrative /technical and financial sustainability?

Mali

Special audit

A special audit of the NCA representation and operational projects in Mali was conducted in the period December 2008 to March 2009. The recommendations from the special audit include: improved budget monitoring, needs for improved separation of tasks at the NCA representation, improved monitoring of expenses related to NCA vehicles, and improved routines for procurement.

Eli Sørensen, the internal auditor from NCA's head office also visited to help with further improvement of the representation in Mali.

NCA Mali also changed the local external auditors in 2009. The new company did an organisational assessment which included field visits to the NCA offices in Gao and Kidal.

The recommendations from these interventions are all about to be put in place.

The employment of a full time program officer to work specifically on the monitoring and evaluations of 2007 will strengthen the institutional strength and programmatic capacity of NCA and its partners in Mali. In 2009 it was decided to move this person from Gao to Bamako to increase our capacity at the head office and better plan capacity building initiatives.

In 2009 it was decided to appoint partner responsible people instead of thematic responsible people. We hope that this change will make it easier to work holistically with the partners, emphasising the relationship between organisational strength and programmatic strength.

NCA is encouraging its local partners to extend their funding base and become less dependent on NCA as a sole donor. This effort has encouraged more partners to establish close links with other donors which we believe is a result of NCA's increased work on institutional capacity building of its partners (for capacity building of NCA partners in accounting and the SAARI system see point 2.3 above).

2.7 Which concrete measures have been implemented to link inputs to national plans and priorities?

Mali and Mauritania are discussed under this chapter.

Mali

The 2nd PRSP for Mali for the period 2007-2011 ("Strategic framework for growth and poverty reduction") was recently adopted by the Malian Government. NCA's work in Mali is perfectly in line with the national priorities as reflected in the main axes of the new PRSP. By focusing on growth and poverty reduction in rural areas, a continued reinforcement of the democratisation and decentralisation processes, a more equal access to resources and services for the population, an improved access to education, the PRSP seems to be quite in line with NCA's analysis of the situation. Another important common focus in the PRSP and NCA's priorities in Mali is on the livestock sector, as one of the areas that should be developed in order for Mali to achieve its objectives of growth and poverty reduction. Through our programme on pastoralism in Kidal, NCA wants to contribute to a the development of the pastoral community and link it to the decentralisation and democratisation processes. This priority seems thus to be quite in line with the PRSP.

The PRSP also prioritises a development of the energy sector. Alternative energy sources in rural areas are to be developed as a way of obtaining the expected results. As explained above, NCA is in the process of testing out a solar energy project in Timbuktu region which is believed to have the potential of being implemented in a more general way in Mali, as it is built on local communities (especially women's) own capacities to install and maintain the energy system on a low cost basis.

The Alger Agreement and the ten year plan for development in Northern Mali are highlighting national priorities for development in Northern Mali. NCA focuses especially on the mobilisation of civil society in Northern Mali for development of a culture of peace and fellowship.

However, NCA also has some priorities that are not on the official national agenda, in particular concerning the fight against gender-based violence. NCA advocates for a law against FGM but the

national authorities do not agree on the need for such a law at the time being, and many argue that there is a need for broad awareness rising before it becomes illegal. NCA is of the opinion that those two things can be done in parallel and will continue to lobby for a law. It will also be interesting to see what stand the government will take regarding the process of the new family code (for details see above). NCA Mali's standing is that the present law is not giving enough protection and rights to women and children.

In more general terms, NCA continues to work closely with regional and local authorities in Northern Mali, by giving technical assistance to the municipalities in developing local communal plans and technical and financial assistance to implement the prioritised activities in these plans.

Mauritania

The political signals sent from the new Mauritanian governments are in line with the NCA strategy. The governments will fight against discrimination and have approved the LWF's human rights approach. Their main strategic orientation will be the fight against poverty through good governance, transparency and the development of basic social services structures for the most vulnerable.

2.8 Which concrete measures have been implemented to strengthen the role of civil society in the development process?

Mali and Mauritania are discussed under this chapter.

Mali

NCA believes that its "local response methodology" and capacity building of its partners is increasing civil society's capacity to participate in the development process in Mali. NCA is increasingly working through local partners which are well anchored in the local communities in which they work. NCA and its partners are encouraging and assisting local communities by putting in place local steering committees in all the thematic areas that we are targeting. The steering committees are receiving informal training on their role and responsibilities representing their local communities at different levels. They are also receiving administrative and financial management training as well as alphabetisation in order to be better prepared for their duties. The Right Based Approach that NCA is using is another measure to strengthen the participation of civil society in the development process. Increased knowledge about their rights and responsibilities as citizens as well as the responsibilities of their elected leaders will increase their ability to participate at different levels. Increased knowledge about the responsibilities and duties of the duty bearers will lead to increased advocacy work by our partners and the civil society in which they work.

NCA and partners in Mali are working in a way that implies a close collaboration of the beneficiary populations and the municipalities in the elaboration and execution of programmes. It is NCA's belief that this collaboration promotes local ownership and that it contributes to more long lasting results.

Mauritania

LWF's new human rights approach emphasises the strengthening of communities capacities to be in control of their own development. Trainings given on personal development and confidence building, knowledge of human rights, knowledge on problems related to FGM and community organisation on awareness raising and the fight against the practice, on health, hygiene and HIV/AIDS, on good and transparent management within groups and within income generating activities, in the reinforcement of the communities capacity in the field of advocacy, in peace reconciliation and conflict management, and in community preparedness on emergency prevention and mitigation is based on mobilising local communities around local and national development processes.

2.9 How have inputs helped to promote Norway's development policy objectives?

Mali and Mauritania are discussed under this chapter.

Mali

Mali is classified as a country of cooperation (*samarbeidsland*). In 2008 the Norwegian Government launched a new strategy which is an extension of the existing collaboration between the Norwegian Government and the Government of Mali. The Norwegian Government's main focus in this new strategy is on peace building and reconciliation, management of natural resources and food security initiatives. Increased security at national and regional level to improve the Government of Mali's ability to implement law and order inside its own borders is also a priority for the Norwegian Government. Integration of women in public life and gender equality is highlighted in the new strategy. The Norwegian Government is seeing it as crucial to create peace and stability in the conflict ridden Northern part of Mali and will work closely with the Malian Government to build long lasting peace in these areas.

NCA's main area of intervention is the Northern part of Mali and the thematic priorities mentioned in our five year plan are in line with the New Norwegian strategy.

Mauritania

In Mauritania the focus on human rights in general, on the fighting of FGM, good governance and peace and reconciliation is building up the Norwegian development objectives. The Publish What Pay initiative is about transparency and equity and is in line with the Oil for Development program.

2.11 Specific reporting on The Norwegian Government's Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security

Mali and Mauritania are discussed under this chapter .

Mali and Mauritania are not included in the Norwegian Government's Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. However, NCA Mali and the work being done in Mauritania to put an end to the practices of FMG and EM are measures to stop the violation of women's right to full participation in their community. The focus on increased participation of women in public life in Mali is also a way to put women's rights and needs on the political agenda which again will improve their wellbeing.

3. FOLLOW-UP OF RESULTS AND EVALUATION

3.1 Describe the reviews/evaluations that have been carried out during the year and give a brief summary of the conclusions, recommendations and follow-up activities:

3.1.1 Title : Programme d'accompagnement pour une participation accrue des femmes à la vie publique au Nord Mali (A program for increased participation of women in public life in Northern Mali).

Type: Internal evaluation

Conclusions: In 2005, the NCA Mali conducted a study on governance in the regions of northern Mali: Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal. One of the findings of this study revealed that in these regions, the exclusion of women is observed at all levels of governance from the fractions to the regional level. The major ethnic groups living in these regions are Tamashek, Songhai, Fulani and Moor, who traditionally provide little space for women's participation in public debates and local development. After the introduction of the program "Increased participation of women in public life in northern Mali," the changes are being felt on the social and political level, as well as by the women themselves. On the social level women and their leaders now know and

accept to a greater degree that women have equal rights with men to address issues and public policy. The women are now ready to fight for their right to speak on behalf of women themselves instead of letting men speak for them. The programs have led to an increased number of women being elected as councilors and in other community structures which means that men can no longer make decisions without taking the views and interests of women into account. We also see that the various trainings given to women and women's groups have made them better prepared to fulfill their mandate effectively as they are more "aggressive" in the fight for the interests of women in the management of their city and their local communities. It also seems that the weight of the traditional powers that before led to the marginalisation of women in decision making bodies are less heavy than before hence the women are now running for office in bigger numbers than previously. We have also seen that men as well as women are now more prepared to vote for women candidates.

Recommendations:

- The illiteracy rate among the women is very high, and prevents them from effective participation. Continued alphabetisation of women is needed if we want to improve and increase their participation in decision making structures.
- It is necessary to continue to work with strategic allies in order for the women to continue to access decision making positions.
- To continue the program, to train new women and closely follow up the ones already in the system.
- Focus on income generating projects making women more independent and less vulnerable

Follow-up:

- Through funding (funds flexible in the GLD framework) from ASDI we are now able to work with the political parties' gender strategies in order to advocate for structural changes.
- It'll also be important to motivate the women to change the political agenda instead of assisting them to continue the same processes that men have always played for years which include the buying of votes both during elections and after elections when the councils are put in place.
- The funding for this project comes to an end this year. The presidential and legislative elections are in 2012 and it'll be very important for NCA to continue this program in the years to come in order not lose the great goals already achieved. Fundraising needs to be undertaken.

3.1.2 Title: Programme de Renforcement des acquis de la Paix dans la région de Gao (Consolidation of Peace in Gao).

Conclusion: The most significant result of the experience with peace building in Gao is the development of the tool "Inter Community Approach to Conflict Management" (AIC). This tool is a participatory approach that strengthens the relationship between the different administrative levels from the regional level to the village level. The legitimacy of the tool comes from the participatory approach of all the mentioned levels and has therefore become a powerful means of preventing and managing conflict in northern Mali. The process has superseded the ad hoc management of conflicts in the region replacing it with a more systematic approach on how to analyse and understand conflicts. The existence of this tool decreases the time spent on analysing and understanding the conflicts. This again reduces the resources invested in mediation and reconciliation. Due to the fact that the population and the individuals in the conflict are part of the process and are involved in setting up the agreement and signing it publicly, the opportunities are high for a long lasting peace. A good indicator of the success and impact of the program is that people from neighbouring communes are requesting an extension of the program to their area.

Recommendations

- There will be no long lasting peace if the individuals and the population itself are not willing to contribute financially to execute the commitments made and the action plans development by the conflicting parties.
- It is necessary to assist the communities and the conflicting parties to implement their action plans.

Follow up:

- Assist the communities and the conflicting parties in fundraising to be able to execute the action plans agreed upon to make an end to the conflicts once and for all.
- Assist the communities to negotiate communal and inter-communal conventions to prevent future conflicts around natural resources.

3.1.4 Title: Ashaqqarmiditch, un outil de promotion du dialogue local.

Conclusion: In a region where the greatest problem of governance remains the lack of communication the methodology called Ashaqqarmiditch, (meaning debate in Tamasheq) raises great hope. During the implementation of the Programme Pastoral Resource Development in Kidal NCA realized that there was a lack of communication and distrust between the elected leaders and the populations. This suspicion arose from the lack of dialogue between the elected leaders and voters. This situation gradually led to a withdrawal of the population from the development of their local communities. For the people in Kidal the reintroduction of the Ashaqqarmiditch opened a new era of local development because the meetings brought people together to discuss the development of their community and made people re-engage. The debates were a great arena for the population to interrogate their elected leaders about their responsibilities as duty bearers, and for the political leaders to remind the population about their duties as citizens. It was also a space where commitments were made publicly increasing transparency in the public sector.

Recommendations:

- It is now important to follow up the commitments made during the Ashaqqarmiditch so that that some real development takes place in Kidal.
- To organise Ashaqqarmiditchs focusing mainly on women’s issues and young people’s issues as they have other priorities than men and have difficulties being heard in male dominated meetings.

Follow up:

- Follow up how far existing processes have come in the implementation of the commitments from the Ashaqqarmiditch.
- Start to plan and organise new Ashaqqarmiditch to include newly elected leaders who were put in place in 2009 after local elections. This should be a good way of keeping them responsible.

3.1.6 Assistance to improve the Food Security, water and environment program in Mali

Type: Internal, assistance from Manfred Arl, advisor on water and hygiene from the head office.

Conclusion:

Evaluation of pilot water catchment basins

The Rainwater Harvesting system (RWH) of the pilot project had its weaknesses, especially in terms of its design such as the capacity of different components of the system and its appropriateness to the local hydrological conditions. The RWH did/will not achieve the objective to give access to potable water to students and teachers for an entire school year of 9 months. The access to water and the hydrological potential with ground and surface water was very good in the villages and the

rainfall pattern very unfavorable. Consequently, the project management should have made a cost-benefit analysis of different systems (RWH / wells / bore wells / surface water) before deciding on the most appropriate solution. In all three villages, the project management would have better selected a well or borehole instead of RWH because the RWH system is relatively expensive and provides a limited amount of water.

Recommendations:

- Always undertake an analysis of the hydrological and social situation and a costs- benefit analysis of possible systems, before deciding on a specific technology for supplying drinking water. The analysis should be carried out in collaboration with the local population and the local population should participate in the decision making process.
- NCA should assist the village of Tassakane to improve their water supply.

The Government of Mali has adopted the National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA). This plan gives priority to RWH systems in the form of building small dams and the management of surface water on plains, low-lands, lakes and swamps and capture runoff water and the restoration of water points.

Five-year plan, program and indicators

NCA's five-year plan for Mali has some weaknesses and poses a challenge for reporting. We discussed some issues in a meeting and observation include:

1. The need to work on sanitation in the form of improved latrines in the next five year period. NCA should focus on hygiene and sanitation promotion in order to create demand for the construction of latrines.
2. NCA Mali should clarify its concept for emergency assistance when reporting on the five-year plan. NCA Mali planned to work with an emergency preparedness plan before the end of this five-year plan period. This would be a good occasion to reconsider the strategy for the emergency sector.
3. NCA Mali should accept the proposal of a food security program for northern Mali from 2007.
4. NCA Mali should discuss its strategy of decentralized rural solar electrification, because the existing strategy has some weaknesses.

GRAIP

GRAIP's work in the agro-pastoral sector is relevant for the local population. Generally the different groups supervised by GRAIP seem to function well. However, the project area and the size of the target population are large and investments in agro-pastoral sector in terms of infrastructure and know how is limited aiming to increase agro-pastoral production. In consequence, increasing necessary resources in order to enable larger or more investments in the agro-pastoral sector is necessary to eventually reconsider GRAIP's strategy for agricultural extension.

Tassaght

Tassaght is a competent organization and the objective of the project of securing pastoral production is highly relevant to the target group.

Possible reorientation of the program to climate change

NCA in cooperation with their partner AMADE launched a pilot project for the electrification of rural households in the context of climate change mitigation in 2007. There have been some technical problems such as the quality of the batteries of mobile lamps and institutional problems such as the lack of discipline for paying the agreed monthly fee for the maintenance of equipment in one of the three villages. However, in general, this project is very well received by the community, appears to be highly relevant and should be extended.

Mali faces some challenges as an effect of climate change. The government presented its policy in the form of the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). This policy gives priority to the adaptation of the effects of climate change particularly with activities in the agricultural and pastoral sector and management of natural resources particularly water resources. The NAPA also mentions activities for the mitigation of climate change such as the promotion of renewable energy including water lifting from wells with solar and wind driven pumps. NCA Mali's program for food security, water and environment contains several components that can be put under the heading of climate change. NCA Mali could possibly consider changing the title of the program to: Food Security, Water and Climate Change. NCA Mali should introduce activities on climate change following the NAPA programme of the Government of Mali. An activity of mitigation of climate change through solar water lifting at wells and boreholes could be prioritized. The National Centre for Solar Energy & Renewable Energy (CNESOLER) is a resource centre with a lot of experience in this sector.

Activities under climate change adaptation should preferably follow the activities listed in the NAPA, but should also depend on the preferences of the local population. There might be two major components in the NAPA that could be realistic for NCA Mali:

1. Improvements and intensification of agricultural and pastoral production systems in order to increase and secure yields and livelihoods.
2. Management of water resources such as the control of surface water by building small dams and RWH in order to catch water from rock and soil surfaces.

3.1.7 Title: Evaluation of Gender Based Violence Programme:

Type: External Evaluation of the last four years work (2005-9) on Gender Based Violence programmes implemented in Mali through six partners in four regions.

Conclusions:

1. The numerous number of program impacts include, at the community level, the increasing participation of the population (especially many men), to fight against female genital mutilation and forced marriage, which are no longer viewed as taboo topics. The treatment of fistula is less perceived as an incurable disease and many women are being referred to hospitals treatment, agree to speak about their illness without shame and believe it "is not from occult origin".
2. The partners of NCA have developed skills and expertise in their daily management in accordance with the needs and requirements of the GBV program.
3. Sustainable efforts must be maximised to ensure Behavioral Change Strategy by NCA, its partners or other stakeholders to bring communities to own the Right's Based Approach or the Health Based Approach;
4. The multidimensional approach (health, rights, culture, religions) used within one package has helped develop understanding and behavioural change at the levels of religious and community leaders.
5. Developing joint strategies with various stakeholders (state, civil society and development agencies) has proved to be an essential model to fight against FGM.
6. The absence of a Malian law on FGM creates a huge obstacle in the fight against FGM and prevents a rapid change in society's acceptance on the practices. It is essential that Technical and Financial Partners like NCA contribute to the fight through sensitization, financial contributions and the care of the victims of GBV. The need to advocate for a legal and judicial framework to be

implemented either through local bodies or a specific law against FGM issued by the State is essential if society is to change in the long term.

7. NCA's monitoring and evaluation reporting frame does not sufficiently take into account the quantitative achievements or activities of the objectives. There is little data on the impacts and difficulties encountered by the partners. Almost no partners reported statistically on what they had achieved. Consequently, it is almost impossible to measure quantitatively the progress of the projects/programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations and direction for future interventions could be revised extensively to ensure a greater impact. These recommendations include:

The need for NCA to undertake a detailed organisational evaluation of its partners before signing contracts or funding projects.

NCA should put in place a solid and efficient monitoring and evaluation system that includes the entire partnership (NCA, technical services, municipalities and local structures that have been put in place by partners),

NCA should institutionalize a bi-annual consultation process with partners to discuss issues which need improving and identify areas of success to be promoted.

NCA needs to improve its Rights Based Approach in order to ensure implementation of this methodology at a grass roots level.

The identification of faith-based organizations (Muslim and Christian) or individuals who are in favour of the abandonment of excision could be identified to disseminate and promote information on GBV among their communities.

Re-think with religious leaders favourable to the abandonment of excision on a "Behavioural Change" Strategy that would encourage new methods of sensitization to leaders or groups that are currently hostile to FGM messages,

Increase the training of teachers with a RBA to emphasize the physical integrity of the girl child.

Work with health staff in villages on the Health and RBA.

Define measurable impact indicators with the partners in order to constitute a quantitative and qualitative data base for future evaluations and new programs.

Develop a multi-annual monitoring and evaluation system that works around the annual agreements.

Develop a phase out plan with partners.

Provide good examples of success experiences in RBA on GB from other countries

Continue to participate in the activities of the Financial Technical Group in order to increase advocacy efforts with large governmental support institutions like National Programme for the Struggle against FGM.

Improve and re-emphasise programmes which raise the issue of early marriage, which is generally considered less important than excision and fistula.

Assist the partners to develop a strategy that involves men (adult and younger men) in the activities for the abandonment of excision.

Follow-up:

NCA should put on place a solid and efficient monitoring and evaluation system that includes the entire partnership (NCA, technical services, municipalities and local structures that have been put in place by partners),

RBA

Faith based NGOs

Develop strategies in the community

CB with partners on impact

Phase out plans

Networking with other countries

Early marriage.

Develop Early marriage program in Kidal and Timbuktu this year,

Make a restitution of study carried out in Timbuktu, and follow up the recommendations at the grassroots levels'

Develop strategies that involve men as main involvers

3.1.8 Title: Evaluation de lutte contre l'excision "Pose Ton Couteau .

Type: An external evaluation of the partnership with Pose Ton Couteau: 2001-2009 on their program to fight female genital mutilation.

Conclusions:

- Using theater to fight against female genital mutilation and early marriage has been a good approach to overcome the taboos preventing it's open discussion. The negative impacts that these practices have on women's lives are also more widely understood.
- NCA has been the only financial partner for the organisation during this period. NCA support has been less than 150 000 NOK each year meaning the resources have not permitted the organisation to function properly. Only one person was employed full time and the organisation has not developed into a professional body with well functioning management structures.
- The methodology of hiring theatre groups made the project expensive to run as members within the theatre group changed frequently increasing training costs.
- As NCA phases out it's partnership with PTC in 2009 there is a high risk that the organization will not be able to continue.

Recommendations:

- To finalise the partnership with Pose Ton Couteau. This was decided prior to the evaluation being conducted.

Follow up:

None is required as the partnership will not continue.

3.1.9 Title: Evaluation du Réseau Malien de Lutte contre les Mutilations Génitales Féminines 1998-2009

Type: An external evaluation of Réseau Malien de Lutte contre les Mutilations Génitales Féminines 1998-2009.

Conclusions:

- The members of the network have the capacity to work with questions about female genital mutilation.
- Educational tools have been developed and are available for all to use.
- Despite the good capacity of its members, the organisation has not been able to sign contracts including institutional funding with partners other than NCA. This will prevent it impacting its initiatives at a national level
- A spirit of networking among its members seems very little developed. The members do not see the added value of the network despite all the training that they have received through le Réseau and the fact that members are using its offices as a meeting point.

Recommendations:

- Finalise the partnership with le Réseau Malien de Lutte contre les Mutilations Génitales Féminines. This had already been decided before the evaluation was conducted.

Follow up:

- No follow-up is needed as the partnership will be finalised in 2009.

NCA Mali also elaborated 2 other brochures in 2009 in order to share some of our experiences:

- La réponse local et la mobilisation des ressources pour la lutte contre le VIH/SIDA
- Les femmes mères du programme d'accompagnement des femmes pour une participation accrue à la vie publique.