



IEDA Relief works with beneficiaries in identifying their needs

IEDA Relief Mali Highlight Report

IEDA Relief and UNHCR implement “Seeds for Solutions” to empower IDPs

Bamako Industrial Zone

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Abstract

IEDA Relief was in charge of the implementation of the project "Seeds for Solutions", funded by the Danish Embassy. This project, which was initiated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), focused on the reintegration and socio-economic integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs). As part of the project, 250 IDPs were selected based on criteria predefined by the UNHCR.

The Context

In Bamako, the government and its partners, including humanitarian agencies and civil society organizations, have made considerable efforts to assist and support IDPs scattered across the city. Due to the recurring violence in northern Mali, some people do not wish to return and would prefer to stay in Bamako and its surrounding areas, despite the precarious living conditions.

The security situation in the North has deteriorated since May 2014, following clashes recorded throughout various locations and an upsurge in armed group activity. Several partners, including the intergovernmental agencies and NGOs, have continued to assist the IDPs in Bamako since the onset of the crisis. However, these projects were designed to save lives and be short-term solutions, so they did not take into account the empowerment of beneficiaries in the medium and long term.

It is in this context that the UNHCR initiated a project of socio-economic (re)integration for IDPs living in Bamako. The project entitled “Seeds for Solutions” was funded by the Danish Embassy, and IEDA Relief was responsible for its implementation. The selection of IDP beneficiaries for this project was based on the vulnerability criteria developed by the UNHCR: female heads of households, households that include people with special needs, families with low income or limited livelihoods, young mothers and adolescent heads of households.

The Impact

A young man originally from the Gao region of Mali, who was displaced and is now settled in Bamako describes the precarious living conditions in which he and his family lived before the advent of the “Seeds for Solutions” project and the positive impact of this project on their daily lives.

“My family and I were spread between host families, exposed to the pangs of exile and suffered livelihood insecurity”. -

The Gao region in the far north of Mali is essentially one of the most uninhabitable regions of the country. The deteriorating environmental conditions have created socio-political unrest, which has led to human crises and lasting damage. The opportunity to work with sheet metal attracted the young man who had suffered from the crisis in northern Mali to Bamako. Unfortunately, this abrupt move affected their livelihoods and forced family members to be distributed between host families. This situation qualified the family with the status of IDP and the young man was selected to be a recipient of the “Seeds for Solutions” project. IEDA Relief participated in the development and validation of the young man’s “body shop” project and closely followed his management training for income-generating activities. The IEDA Relief team was even able to use his materials and services for sub-project. IEDA Relief has also made a revolving fund available for his business with a subsidy total of 1,040,000 FCFA (\$1,776.44).

“Today, I can say that I have begun the process of becoming self-sufficient because, in addition to being able to reunite my family, I get to provide for their needs. The IEDA Relief team has accompanied me throughout this process.”

The Story in Images



Georges¹, an IDP beneficiary working on the sheet metal of a car as part of a large-scale project (welding workshop).

¹ The name of the beneficiary has been changed for privacy reasons.