

Missing Middle Initiative Senegal project (COVID-19 Additional Funding Request)

1. Basic Project Information

a. MMI Pilot Project Name	Strengthening rural women's livelihood for a sustainable economic development in the region of Tambacounda, in the East of Senegal
b. Current Project development objective	Improve agricultural productivity and market access of the members of APROVAG and Yakaar Niani Wulli farmers' group as well as their economic and political empowerment.
c. Responsible Supervising Entity (SE)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
d. SE Project Team Leader	Name: Mamadou NIOKANE Title: National Coordinator GAFSP MMI Project Senegal Email: Mamadou.Niokane@fao.org
e. Project country/ies	Senegal
f. Lead Producer Organization/s (PO) and/or Civil Society Organization/s (CSO)	Farmer Association of Gambia river valley (APROVAG) and Yakaar Niani Wulli Federation (FYNW)
g. Date of Project approval by the SE	18 May 2018
h. Current Project closing date	1st March 2021
i. Latest Project implementation rating	Rating: Satisfactory Date: 31 December 2019

2. Project Financial Information (as of 30 June, 2020)

j. Project Funding	All funding sources ¹ : US\$ 2 480 000 Of which GAFSP grant amount: US\$ 2 480 000
k. Disbursements	All funding sources: US\$ 778 208 GAFSP grant: US\$ 778 208

3. Summary of Additional Funding Request

l. Additional Funding amount requested	US\$ 223,000
m. Supplemental SE administrative fee request ²	US\$ 25,000
n. Costed list of proposed activities to be funded ³	- Facilitate access to agricultural inputs for beneficiaries with crop and marketing losses = US\$77,210 - Strengthening information system management for both POs = US\$ 3,343; - Business models development = US\$ 43,689; - Investment for improving resilience to shocks and marketing capacity = US\$ 49,883 - Capacity development for marketing activities = US\$34,286 - Project Support Cost = US\$ 14,589
o. Revised Project Development Objective (if applicable)	N/A
p. Revised project closing date (if applicable)	December 31, 2022
q. Estimated number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender)	1 639 beneficiaries with 933 women, from the POs (same as in the original project)

¹ Include GAFSP funds as well as other financing sources, such as bilateral, multilateral or government contributions.

² The supplemental administrative fee should cover the SE's cost to appraise and approve the additional funding, and any additional funds needed for project implementation support. The indicative fee ceiling is 8% of the requested grant amount.

³ The budget table should include clear listing of activities (organized by component if applicable), with associated summary costs, and unit costs as applicable. Please provide any further detail in an Annex.

(indicate if these are additional to the current project beneficiaries)	
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4. COVID-19 impact

- r. Provide a brief description of the impact and disruptions caused by COVID-19 on the project country, the project activity areas and target population.*

Senegal is one of the African countries most affected by COVID-19 (8014 cases as of Mid July 2020). Livelihood of people living in rural areas have been hit twice by the pandemic: on one side as consumers given the impact of the pandemic on the food security country-wide and on the other side as a result of income losses due to the disruption of agricultural activities, markets and food value chains. Between March and May, several weekly food markets were closed or with significant slowdown of activities due to the curfew between 8pm to 6am, which is transport time (imposed on March 23 and partially eased on May 11 and then on June 4).

The producers members of the FYNW (one of the two POs supported by the project) are very vulnerable households dependent on agricultural production and small activities such as small retail trade and the restrictive measures have a negative impact on their purchasing power and therefore on their food security.

Women in Koussanar commune engage in income-generating activities such as the processing of local products (millet, maize, fonio, peanuts) and were impacted negatively by restrictive measures with loss of incomes: the closing of the local food markets and the limitation of movements led to an estimated loss of income between 30 and 80% ,since producers were unable to access the markets for the sale of their processed products. In terms of food insecurity, 2 out of 3 households have reduced the number of meals from 3 to 2 per day and while 33% of the households could only access one meal a day according to our estimates.

Households that had kept seeds (peanuts, fonio, corn, etc.) for the next agricultural season had no other solution than to consume them.

On the APROVAG side(the other PO), the banana marketing system has become more fragile with restrictive measures linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. The curfew as well as other restrictions affecting the movements of vehicles during the night have created bottlenecks on agriculture commodity transport. Additionally the curfew affected the market of bananas, hence reducing the quantities marketed and hence reducing the demand by the retailers. Consequently, between March and June 2020, producers of APROVAG claimed a loss 245 of 402 tons of non-marketed bananas, or 61% of the harvest equivalent to more than 80 million FCFA (or 137,000 USD) in monetary value.

- s. Provide a summary of the current project implementation progress. Has the COVID-19 crisis impacted project implementation? If yes, how?*

The implementation of the project has actually started in January 2018 with a very low delivery (2%) for its first year due to the delay in the signing of the project document by Government of Senegal, the delay in the first disbursement of the project’s funds and the recruitment of the project team. As of June 30, 2020, the overall project disbursement rate is 31% for an available budget of US\$ 2,480,000.

The table below summarizes the status of project implementation:

Year	Planned AWPB (USD)	Implemented AWPB (USD)	Cumulative implementation (%)	Main activities implemented
2018	816 683	48 762	2.0	- Project launch in October 2018 - Recruitment of project team
2019	934 593	596 369	26.0	- Strengthening production capacities: purchase of 2 motor-driven pump units for improving the irrigation system; supply of 3,700 banana vitroplants for the renewal of plant material; training on management of irrigation water; strengthening producers on agro-ecological practices; -Building the capacities of agricultural service micro-enterprises in entrepreneurship: training micro-enterprise managers on entrepreneurship, administrative management and financial management -Training of project stakeholders on inclusive business models; -Reinforcement data collection capacities and agricultural production monitoring systems: training of beneficiaries on data collection tools with kobocollect and tablets; training on methodology and tools for monitoring agricultural production -Strengthening of solidarity and social credit mechanisms: establishment of village savings and credit associations ("AVEC") and training of women on the "AVEC" methodology.
2020	728 724	133 077 (as of June 30 th)	31.4	Risks of performance decline are linked to the COVID-19 situation: field activities are currently slowed down and could impact on the execution rate forecasted for 2020

With the spread of COVID-19, and the consequences of precautionary government measures to avoid the spread of the pandemic, activities planned for the first semester have significantly been slowed down in particular since March 2020, and more specifically the activities of the project implementing partners: delays particularly affect the organization of workshops on contract farming, training activities on organizational development and POs governance, technical support in warrantage, and field monitoring.

- t. *Is the project currently addressing the impacts of COVID-19? If yes, in what way? Have any changes already been made to the project design, activities, target population and/or implementation arrangements to respond to the impact of COVID-19 in the project area?*

To date, the project has not yet implemented activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, but rather undertook diagnoses and collective brainstorming involving the beneficiary POs and project partners. To this end, the project invested in a participatory diagnostic exercise to allow the 2 POs to assess the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the livelihoods of agricultural households members of APROVAG and FYNW so as to identify urgent short-term response actions to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic, and to plan medium-term strategic actions that would enable POs to strengthen their sustainability and capacity to cope with external shocks.

5. Description of Additional Financing Activities

- u. *Describe the activities to be financed with the additional funding requested. How will the proposed activities address or mitigate the COVID-19 impacts described under section 4 above? How do the proposed activities relate to the ongoing project? How do the proposed activities complement or fill a gap in the local COVID-19 response? What is the role of POs/ag-CSOs in the proposed activities?*

Components	Actions to be funded with additional funding
Component 1: POs Institutional Development	<p>Activity 1.1 : Facilitate access to agricultural inputs for beneficiaries with crop and marketing losses in order to preserve / revive their activities: fuel for irrigation pumps units, and organic fertilizer for the fertilization of plants according to the evolving mechanism within POs. The producers who will benefit from this support will reimburse partially the amounts agreed upon within their organizations in order to enable the other members to benefit and to strengthen the capital base of their organizations.</p> <p>Action 1.2. Strengthening information system management for both POs: this involves training of stakeholders and the consolidation of information and communication systems for Economic Interest Groups and their members. This could involve partners such as Action Aid</p> <p>Action 1.3. POs Business models' development: strengthening investment management mechanisms to ensure the renewal and sustainability of the equipment invested; technical assistance of POs in the process of developing and implementing viable business models in the context of COVID-19; organizational strengthening and enhanced governance of the 2 POs to promote their economic empowerment in the context of new investments and of the crisis.</p>
Component 2 : Creation of innovative and sustainable economic partnerships	<p>Action 2.1. Productive Investment for improving marketing capacity for producers : revitalization of the POs processing units; installation of 10 kiosks and provision of means of transport (3 motorcycles) for trade/distribution to proximity markets in the city of Tambacounda. All investments will require co-financing between the project and the beneficiaries (up to one third including direct contribution and/or through access to credit).</p> <p>Action 2. Capacity development for marketing capacity: strengthening the marketing skills and capacities of the 2 POs- support for negotiations, facilitation, identification of buyers, business mentoring in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. This could involve partners such as ASPRODEB.</p>

The rationale for the selection of such activities is the following:

- Access to agricultural inputs will restore and strengthen the productive capital and the resilience of FO members affected by the pandemic,
- Storage/transport of products and information management will contribute to limit crop losses caused by restrictive measures and thus facilitate the marketing of products under the crisis situation,
- Facilitation of negotiations and facilitation of online marketing through virtual platforms for promotion, ordering and payment will allow stakeholders to adapt to the new living conditions of the populations imposed by the pandemic.

These above listed actions complement the activities of the initial project, which interventions do not take into account current and new needs caused by the impacts of COVID-19. As part of the implementation of additional activities, POs will play the role of mobilization and awareness of their members as well as the mobilization of their contributions in setting up the proposed investments.

- v. *What is the expected impact of the additional funding and how will this be measured? Are any expected impacts specific to the needs of women and female farmers? If so, how will these be measured? Please refer to the [GAFSP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan](#).*

The impact expected from the additional funding are as follows:

- improved resilience of producers who are members of the 2 POs negatively affected by the multiple effects of COVID-19 pandemic on the value chains in which they are involved;
- decrease of post-harvest losses due to marketing difficulties;
- income increase through further development of POs business models

All these expected results contribute to the overall expected impact of the project, which is "helping to reduce the socio-economic vulnerability of small producers in the department of Tambacounda". In other words, the

project plans to increase the incomes of small producers in order to reduce food insecurity and economic vulnerability of small producers.

Monitoring of the expected impacts of additional funding will be undertaken using the same participatory tools and approaches developed and validated with POs and partners in the context of the design of the original project's M&E system: programmatic monitoring spreadsheet, quarterly reports, the POs E-monitoring system, mid-term review. The revised result is provided in Annex 2 (attached excel file).

- w. *What is the estimated timeline to (i) deploy the additional funds and (ii) implement the proposed COVID-19 activities? If the project implementation progress is currently rated less than moderately satisfactory, please specify how any implementation challenges will be addressed.*

The following Table covers the first year of implementation of the additional financing.

Activities	October 2021 – September 2022			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Facilitate access to agricultural inputs for beneficiaries having suffered crop and marketing losses				
Strengthening management information systems for both POs:				
Development of POs Business models				
Productive Investment for improving marketing capacity				
Capacity Development for marketing capacity				

- x. *Under Annex 1, provide an updated project budget by component and activity, showing the original grant and the additional funding requested. Has the project tried to access alternative sources of funding?*

See Annex 1 below

- y. *Include a draft revised Results Framework (or logframe) with newly introduced indicators or revised targets for existing indicators. Please refer to the [GAFSP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan](#).*

Attached as Annex 2 (excel table / new indicators in red)

- z. *Include the latest technical progress report such as SE project supervision report, PO prepared technical progress report etc. (Optional; will not be publicly disclosed).*

n/a

Annex 1: Updated FA Budget (MMI Senegal)

Components and results	COVID-19 AF requested	COVID-19 AF updated after fund agreement
	Total	Total
Component 1 : POs institutional Development	101 464	80 553
Result # 1. The production, management and governance capacities of POs and small producers have increased		
Result # 2. The economic and political empowerment of women members of POs are improved		
AF COVID-19 Action 1.1: Facilitate access to agricultural inputs for beneficiaries with crop and marketing losses	77 210	77 210
AF COVID-19 Action 1.2: Strengthening information systems management for both POs	24 254	3 343
Component 2: Creation of innovative and sustainable economic partnerships	216 293	127 858
Result # 3. Rural entrepreneurship initiatives led by women and young producers are strengthened and implemented		
Result # 4. Partnerships between POs and other chain stakeholders are defined on the basis mutually beneficial commitments		
AF COVID-19 Action 2.1: POs Business models' Development	25 621	43 689
AF COVID-19 Action 2.2: Productive Investment for improving marketing capacity	159 616	49 883
AF COVID-19 Action 2.3: Capacity building for marketing capacity	31 056	34 286
Component 3: Stakeholders rural financing through their POs	-	-
Result # 5. Access to finance is facilitated and diversified for small producers and POs		
Management, Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Communication	-	-
TOTAL	317 757	208 411
Project Support Cost 7%	22 243	14 589
TOTAL	340 000	223 000