

## Management Summary Learning Report Mali 2005 – capacity development

IICD's capacity development programme in Mali was the subject of the second Focus Group meeting held in Bamako in June 2005. All the training partners and project owners of Mali Country programme attended the workshop. Within the subject of capacity development, the participants focused more specifically on the limited participation of women in the capacity development programme. They further identified the end-users of the projects and discussed the commitment to the process of Monitoring and Evaluation. In general the report reflects a positive experience by the participants in different courses from 2002 onwards. Satisfaction and impact levels are encouraging, but also point to the challenge of improving organisational impact. This report is the result of continuous Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) activities in Mali as a tool for self-evaluation and learning, conducted by SEC-Mali, the local M&E partner.

During the Focus Group meeting focussing on capacity development, the project owners showed a large level of comprehension of IICD's M&E methodology. Especially the debates were more open and sincere than the debates of the first Focus Group meeting on project formulation held in September 2004. The participants discussed the results of the analysis of the data of the capacity development activities and identified the end users of the projects in implementation. The timing of the meeting was excellent to clarify the concept of end-users. The next steps of the M&E process involve reaching end-users to assess the impact of the sector. In particular the projects in the Health sector will be evaluated later in 2005.

### Evaluation results

Looking at the results of the capacity development programme, 82 respondents have filled in a questionnaire directly after attending a course. A total of five different courses have been evaluated. To measure the longer term impact, three to six months after the course a follow-up questionnaire was administered. In Mali only ten participants could be traced, who were willing to provide their opinion.

The analysis shows that the participants of the courses are mostly men, who live in a provincial town and indicate to earn an average income. Their objectives were met by participating in the courses and they are very satisfied with all the aspects of the course, like coordination, materials, the trainer and the methodology. The participants who filled in the follow-up questionnaire three to six months later use their knowledge gained in the course weekly. The most positive impact is the level of awareness since all ten participants indicated to be more aware of the

possibilities of ICTs in their sector. Three participants even indicated to experience personal economic benefits from the training courses.

### Focus Group discussion

Based on the results of the evaluation data, the project owners and training partners made several commitments to tackle the following issues:

- Participation of women
- End-user identification
- Commitment to the M&E process



### Participation of women

The participation of women in the training courses remains a major concern. The participants of the Focus Group meeting feel that the level of representation of women (24%) to the various formations is insufficient. The project owners therefore committed themselves to include a larger group of women in the training courses.

Four actions were proposed:

- Creating incentives for women to participate;
- Establish selection criteria favourable to women;
- Raise awareness of the importance of women participation in the projects and take that into consideration when composing the project team;
- Set quotas for the number of women participating in training courses.

#### *End-user identification*

The second commitment relates to the identification of each projects' end-users. In order to monitor the impact on the target groups, it is essential to clearly identify those groups at forehand. During the Focus Group discussion, each project owner drew a picture to illustrate and analyse the users groups. Such an exercise brings the perceptions of the project teams to the surface. It proved to be difficult to differentiate between current and future users, and between direct and indirect users. Based on the illustration, the project owners listed the current end users which will be involved in the upcoming evaluation activities. Each project team will continue the work which was started during the Focus Group meeting in order to facilitate the data-gathering activities amongst the project users.

#### *Commitment to the M&E process*

The last commitment relates to the division of the roles between partner M&E and the project teams. The participants proposed several solutions to increase the collection of questionnaires. The characteristic of the local context were taken into account, like limited and slow access to the Internet.

The participants proposed to:

- Ask the project leaders to commit themselves, in stead of delegating the responsibility;
- Inform the people concerned in advance and to send somebody on the ground to collect information;
- Constitute local or regional focal points having access to email and which receive and distribute the questionnaires to the other users of the project;
- Integrate the M&E into the activities of the project;
- Envisage periodic meetings with the users;
- Inform the partner M&E on the meetings and events of the projects;
- Ask the users to fill out the questionnaires on line directly on the site of IICD to the following address: <http://survey.iicd.org>.

These three commitments are a pre-condition for the improvement of the services of the projects. Whether the commitments will be followed will become clear during the data collection of the projects in the Health sector later in 2005. Also the higher level of participation of women will be monitored during the M&E process.

#### **More information**

For information about IICD and Monitoring & Evaluation, visit [www.iicd.org/evaluation](http://www.iicd.org/evaluation) or contact us at [information@iicd.org](mailto:information@iicd.org). The online M&E system can be viewed at <http://www.survey.iicd.org>.

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*The International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) assists developing countries to realise locally owned sustainable development by harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs). IICD realises its mission through two strategic approaches. First, Country Programmes bring local organisations together and help them to formulate and execute ICT-supported development policies and projects. The approach aims to strengthen local institutional capacities to develop and manage Country Programmes, which are currently being implemented in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Second, Thematic Networking links local and international partners working in similar areas, connecting local knowledge with global knowledge and promoting South-South and South-North exchanges. Thematic Networking focuses on sectors and themes like education, health, governance, the environment, livelihood opportunities (especially agriculture), and training. These efforts are supported by various information and communication activities provided by IICD or its partners. IICD is an independent non-profit foundation, established by the Netherlands Ministry for Development Cooperation in 1997. Its core funders include the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGIS), the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).*

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