

Name of project:	Enhanced Homestead Food Production for Improved Food Security and Nutrition in Burkina Faso
Donor:	USAID-Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
Implementing organization:	Helen Keller International with local NGO partner APRG
M&E organization:	IFPRI
Project start date:	July 1, 2009
Project end date:	June 30, 2012
Geographic coverage: (countries)	Burkina Faso (Eastern region) – Gourma Province, Fada district
Status of impact assessment (when are/were baselines to be conducted, what quantitative or qualitative assessments have been done, etc.)	<p>Quantitative baseline data collection conducted Feb-April 2010 in intervention and control communities (including gender disaggregated production, labor and asset data)</p> <p>Qualitative operations research planned for January 2011</p> <p>Quantitative social network analysis planned for January 2011</p> <p>Quantitative end line analysis planned for Feb-April 2012</p>
To what extent is the project targeted to women?	<p>All homestead food production (HFP) training and inputs are targeted to women (30 female village farmer leaders – VFL - and 1200 household gardeners) and information about improved maternal and child nutritional practices is also targeted to these same 1200 women with infants and their households. In 15 intervention villages, elder influential women are trained in the Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) framework and behavior change communications (BCC) techniques to support the nutrition behavior change communications strategy. In the other 15 intervention villages, a gender balanced health committee, also trained in ENA/BCC communicates nutritional information to the targeted mothers and their households.</p> <p>Based on HKI's experience in the region, once the gardens and animal husbandry components start generating income, the men may try to take control of the gardens. Project staff therefore gave attention at the start of the project to discussing with husbands the importance of supporting women and to sensitize them to support women's leadership. The influential elder women and health committees are also used to help win the husbands' cooperation with project targeting.</p>

<p>Does this project aim to directly build assets, or would increases in assets be a secondary effect (e.g. project aims to increase incomes, but people might then invest in assets)?</p>	<p>The project aims directly to build women’s assets (access to land, agricultural capital, livestock and physical assets purchased from increased income) by providing initial assets and training to establish their capacity for the increased production of vegetables, fruits and poultry around the homestead and through training designed to increase knowledge as well as improve the practices of women regarding effective maternal and child nutrition. While the primary objective is to increase consumption of the produce by vulnerable household members (pregnant, lactating women and children 6-24 months) gardeners are supported in efforts to generate income by selling surplus within their communities.</p>
<p>What kinds of assets might have observable changes (for men or women)?</p>	<p>(For each type of capital below that you think your project may affect, please mention the kinds of assets that may be affected)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural capital (e.g. land, water): 	<p>The natural capital of participating women should be improved through the introduction of drip irrigation technology that will allow for production on previously uncultivated land and cultivation during additional growing seasons, thereby contributing to improved water and land management in this Sahel setting. The program also promotes sound land usage techniques among participating women including crop rotation, mulching and composting, integrated pest management and organic fertilizer and pesticides to the maximum extent possible.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical capital (e.g. housing, equipment, cell phones): 	<p>The physical capital of participating women and their households will be improved through the provision of construction materials for garden plots and chicken coops; drip irrigation equipment; seeds, seedlings and chicks provided to each producer (VFLs and HH farmers).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial capital (savings, credit, remittances): 	<p>A key element of sustainability for the HFP will be to create demand for plant and animal food products, whether for household consumption or for sale. This includes establishing viable marketing channels for the sale of production and ensuring sustainable seed delivery systems. In addition, the project includes a microcredit program that will allow new beneficiary women access to loans to continue to purchase improved seeds, OFSP cuttings and the drip irrigation system after project support ends. The project M&E system will measure household income generated from the gardening and animal husbandry activities supported by the project (pre- and post-intervention in intervention compared to control communities) to assess probable contributions of the project to improved household income.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social capital (e.g. group 	<p>The project will promote social capital among participating</p>

<p>membership, connections, either within communities or with outsiders):</p>	<p>women through the creation of a village model farm that supports 40 women in HH production who are organized into two women's groups who come together for training in improved garden production and for nutrition education discussions. These bonds should be further reinforced by the elder influential women's groups and health committees at the village level. The groups are trained to interact with mothers individually and in groups to support behavior change (and eventually changes in social norms) in the areas of infant and young child feeding. Volunteers are recruited for these community nutrition advocacy groups for their social standing but also for their commitment to bettering child health in their communities. Finally, social network analysis under this project will attempt to trace how messages pass through these social channels and identify if certain networks pass positive messages more effectively than others.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human capital (e.g. education, skills, health, nutritional status): 	<p>The project has trained 15 master trainers within the Agriculture department at the provincial and district levels and partner NGOs in HFP adapted for the Sahel. These trainers have trained the 30 VFL and will support the training of the 1200 HH farmers in HFP. The project has also trained 10 master trainers within the provincial and district Health department and partner NGOs in ENA and BCC. In turn, these people have trained? the nutrition advocacy groups (including the VFL) in each village in ENA/BCC. Thus the project should strengthen human capital in government, NGO and community partners in the areas of agricultural production and nutrition as well as in techniques for negotiation for behavior change. In addition, the project will improve the human capital of beneficiary mothers by providing targeted information about improved maternal and child nutrition practices as well as improved homestead food production techniques.</p>
<p>Brief abstract about the project—what is it trying to achieve, what is the strategy being used for integrating gender into project implementation and in M&E/impact evaluation? (max 1 page)</p> <p>The global food crisis is having an important impact on food security in Burkina Faso, especially among those living in areas of marginal agricultural production. This program focuses on Enhanced Homestead Food Production (E-HFP), which is a multisectoral, integrated approach to achieving food security in vulnerable populations. The goal of the program is to design, implement, monitor and evaluate an E-HFP program to enhance the nutritional status of infants and young children and their mothers through improved homestead food production and the adoption of optimal nutritional practices. HKI's extensive experience with HFP in Asia and its experience with school and community gardening in Burkina Faso have informed the development of this model, which includes the production of micronutrient rich vegetables and fruits as well as small animal husbandry. Fully integrated into the E-HFP model is a nutrition education component that promotes the Essential Nutrition Actions (ENAs), seven key</p>	

interventions with proven impact, using behavior change communications (BCC). This nutrition component will also link to the screening of children for acute malnutrition and HKI's support for the community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), also funded by OFDA. An innovative drip irrigation technology will be used to manage the often severe water shortages.

All homestead food production (HFP) training and inputs are targeted to women, as is information about improved maternal and child nutritional practices. In order to encourage women's role in homestead food production and nutritional decision-making within the household, the project staff gives attention at the start of the project to discussing with husbands the importance of supporting women and to sensitize them to support women's leadership. Both influential elder women involved in the program in half the intervention villages and mixed gender village health committees are also used to help pass important nutritional messages to targeted women and their households, including their husbands.

A rigorous monitoring and evaluation system has been set up with expertise from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to document the experience and assess the impact of the model on the food security situation of the targeted vulnerable populations, including their nutritional status. Using a longitudinal design to follow a target child in each household, the study includes 1) a quantitative baseline survey among control and intervention populations including (gender disaggregated) modules on agricultural production and household assets and decision-making, and on maternal nutrition knowledge and practices; 2) a round of qualitative operations research including focus group discussions and key informant interviews to assess the pathways through which the project works in theory and practice; 3) a quantitative social network study to assess the various information diffusion strategies; 4) a quantitative end line survey among the same control and intervention households on the topics addressed at baseline. The correlation between measures taken on the same individuals at two points in time (before and after) will improve statistical power, reduce the need for large sample sizes, and ultimately, increase the plausibility arguments for program effectiveness. This robust assessment and documentation will generate lessons learned that can inform expansion to other areas in the country as well as to other countries facing similar challenges. The program will thus use this community-directed and managed E-HFP model to increase households' access to nutritious foods year round and use this platform to deliver nutrition education for improved maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices in the Fada district of the Gourma Province in the Eastern Region of Burkina Faso.