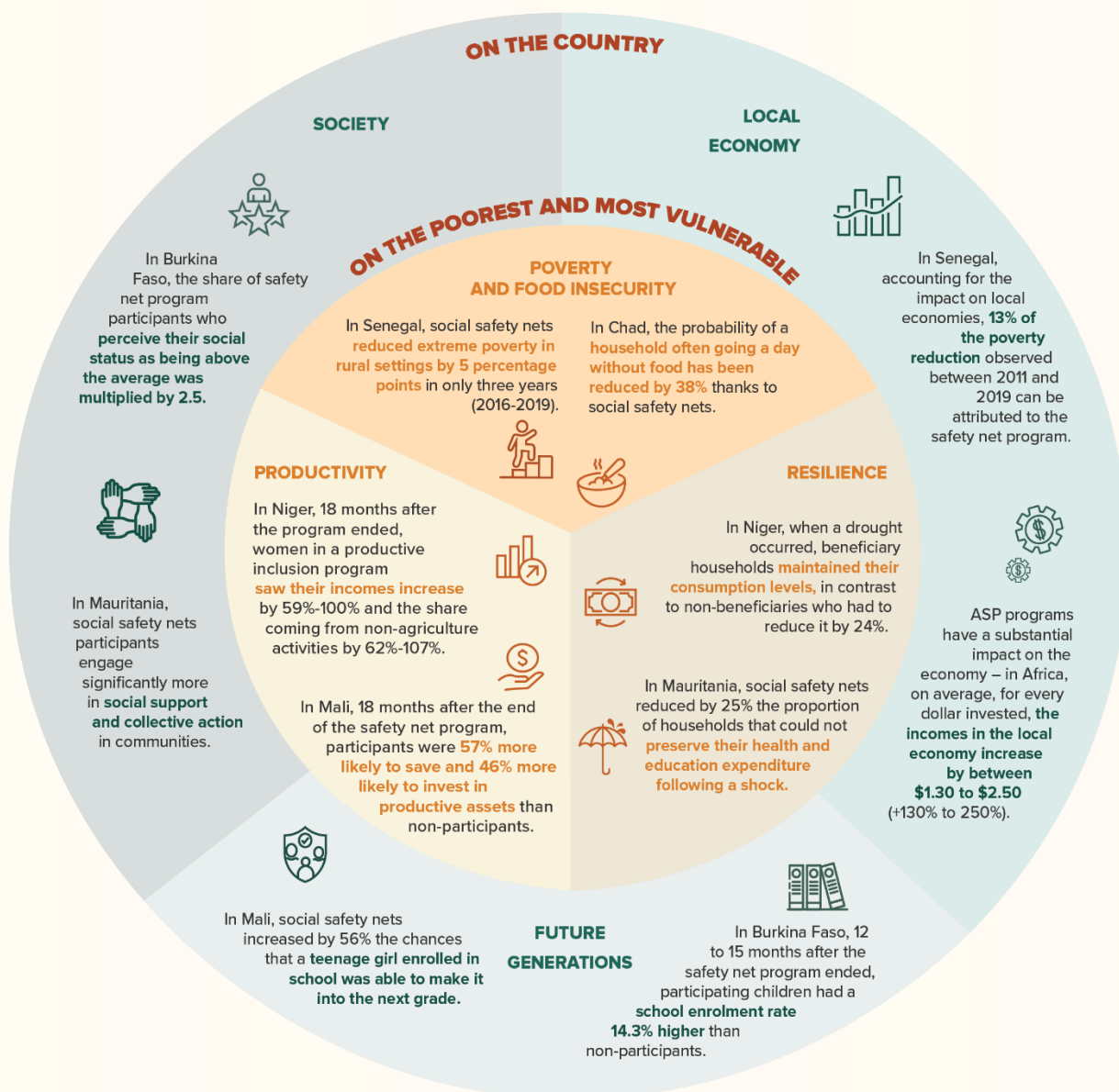


MAPPING IMPACT IN CHAD:

Country-Level Impact of Adaptive Safety Nets in the Sahel

EVIDENCE FROM THE REGION

In the Sahel, Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) is a set of social protection policies, systems, and programs that promote human capital, productivity, and resilience of the poorest and strengthen their capacity to prepare for, cope with, and adapt to shocks. Through the delivery of regular social safety nets, economic inclusion interventions, and shock-responsive programs, ASP has demonstrated strong positive impacts on various dimensions of welfare in the Sahel. For the poorest and most vulnerable, it has resulted in improvements in household welfare and food security, productivity, and resilience. More broadly, it has shown significant positive impacts on the economy, society and future generations.¹



¹ Infographic on Impacts of Adaptive Social Protection in the Sahel – Evidence from rigorous impact evaluations of social safety nets, productive inclusion, shock response and other social protection program. More details on: www.worldbank.org/saspp

MORE DETAILED EVIDENCE FROM CHAD

Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) in Chad is built around three core programs—social safety nets, productive inclusion initiatives, and shock-responsive interventions—supported by cross-cutting tools such as a digital payment system, a social registry, early warning systems or grievance redress mechanisms. These elements, among others, work together to ensure institutionalized, efficient, and transparent implementation that is accessible to a wide range of stakeholders.

Since the development of the national social protection strategy in 2015, the Chadian government has implemented various programs aimed at reducing poverty and inequality. The PFSA was the first social protection program executed by the government, operating on a limited scale from 2016 to 2020. Drawing from the insights gained during the implementation of this pilot, as well as from the PARCA, the government has resolved to broaden the scope of these initiatives to aim for comprehensive national social protection coverage in the long term.

This note presents the results of the impact evaluations of the pilot cash transfer program and of its simplified economic inclusion package pilot implemented in 2019. These evaluations are based on rigorous studies using rich data, the results of which have guided and continue to inform major decisions on sectoral policies.

Box 1. National Programs

Adaptive Social Safety Net Pilot Project (PFSA)

From 2016 to 2020, Chad implemented the *Projet Pilote de Filets Sociaux Adaptatifs* (PFSA) as a lever to build the foundations of a future national adaptive social protection system. The pilot targeted vulnerable populations through a mix of interventions: 6,200 individuals received unconditional monetary transfers of 45,000 CFA francs (\$US 75) every three months for two years—primarily directed to women—to support their households' basic needs. A total of 6,956 individuals participated in cash-for-work programs that provided temporary employment and skill formation.

Economic Inclusion Measures of PFSA

As part of the PFSA pilot, a streamlined, low-cost economic inclusion intervention—comparatively less expensive and complex than others in the region—was delivered to a subset of nearly 2,000 recipients of the PFSA, approximately 18 months after their first transfer. It was implemented over a short period of 3-4 months and included a savings facilitation, with 120 savings groups initially established, coaching, micro-entrepreneurship training, and lump-sum productive grant of 45,000 CFA francs on top of the payment of the last regular transfer, of the same amount. These measures aimed to promote the creation of income generating activities and boost the productive capacities of participants.

Refugees and Host Communities Support Project (PARCA)

Between 2018 and 2025, Chad's *Projet d'Appui aux Réfugiés et aux Communautés d'Accueil* (PARCA) has supported both refugees and host communities, with 70% of assistance directed to host populations and 30% to refugees. The project has provided regular and shock-responsive monetary transfers to 70,000 households and aims to reach 62,000 with productive inclusion support. Monetary transfers consisted of 15,000 FCFA per household per month, disbursed quarterly over two years (totaling 45,000 FCFA per quarter).

Adaptive and Productive Safety Net Project (PFSAP)

From 2025 to 2030, Chad will implement the *Projet de Filets de Sécurité Adaptatifs et Productifs* (PFSAP), aiming to scale up from local initiatives to a nationally integrated and responsive social protection system that strengthens resilience to shocks, supported by a functional registry and a payment platform. The program will cover nine provinces, reaching an average of near 12% of the population living in poverty, regardless of whether they host refugees. It will provide integrated productive safety nets to 62,000 households, emergency assistance to 40,000 food-insecure households, targeted support to 25,000 people affected by climate shocks and large refugee inflows, and aid to 5,000 individuals impacted by floods.



IMPACT OF THE REGULAR SAFETY NET PROGRAM: EVIDENCE FROM THE PFSA ONE YEAR AFTER START²

#1 | Social safety nets improved household consumption and reduced food insecurity among poor and vulnerable households.

Monetary transfers alone led to significant increases in per capita consumption, particularly in food, health, and education expenditures. On average, households spent 79% of the transfer on consumption, reflecting a strong tendency of poor households to prioritize immediate needs. The program also contributed to substantial reductions in both the incidence and severity of hunger, with beneficiaries significantly less likely to report having gone a whole day without eating or having experienced hunger in the previous year: the likelihood of a household frequently going an entire day without eating decreased by 38%.

² Daye, M, Kandpal E., and Schnitzer P., 2020. "Disaggregating the Effects of Cash Transfers on the Men and Women in Poor Households: Evidence from Chad." Mimeo.

#2 | Safety nets can boost women's economic empowerment and enable more diverse household livelihoods. Women drove most of the gains in businesses, income, and empowerment.

The monetary transfers delivered by the PFSA program also led to modest increases in household non-agricultural entrepreneurship and business asset ownership. These gains were largely driven by women, who were more likely to start a business (+18%), report higher revenues and profits, more likely to engage in wage employment (+20%), and reduce their debt. Women also contributed to greater household livelihood diversification through increased involvement in both business and agricultural sales. Additionally, women who received the transfers experienced slight but meaningful improvements in empowerment, including increased role in household decisions and a stronger stance against domestic violence.



IMPACT OF A SIMPLIFIED ECONOMIC INCLUSION PROGRAM 18-MONTH AFTER ITS COMPLETION³

#3 | Economic inclusion programs can enhance the impact of monetary transfers and create meaningful and lasting impacts on household welfare, income-generating activities, and women's empowerment.

The economic inclusion program led to a 13% increase in household food consumption and a notable improvement in overall welfare. Women who took part in the program increased their revenues from farming (by 34%) and small businesses (by 27%), while reducing the time they spent working on their own plots by using more hired labor. Savings group participation rose by 44%, and the amount saved increased by 64% compared to households not in the program. Women also gained more control over household decisions, especially on health, education, and use of income, and were more engaged in community life.

#4 | Economic inclusion measures are associated with significant spillover benefits for non-participant households.

The economic inclusion intervention had positive local spillovers on non-participant households in treated villages. Non-participant households experienced a 9% increase in food consumption and a 0.17 standard deviation improvement in a standardized welfare index. Spillovers extended to livelihoods, with shifts in labor patterns, increased use of paid agricultural labor, and higher revenues from off-farm activities. Women in non-participant households were more likely to engage in micro-businesses and savings groups, with a 9.8 percentage point increase in participation. This was accompanied by greater women's decision-making power and an increased share of household income generated by women.

#5 | Economic inclusion interventions are one of the most cost-effective models, delivering strong returns even under conservative assumptions.

The intervention cost only \$104 per household (or \$252 in 2016 PPP terms), making it significantly more affordable than most economic inclusion or graduation programs. Based on direct impacts alone, it was cost-effective under modest assumptions of declining effects, i.e. if impacts diminished by 50% per year, the internal rate of return (IRR) was estimated at 32%. When spillover effects were included, the program remained cost-effective even without assuming any persistence beyond the 18-month follow-up, with the IRR rising to 73%. Under a moderate scenario that considered both spillovers and a 50% annual decline in effects, the IRR reached 123%, with total benefits exceeding costs by more than threefold.

³ Premand P., Schnitzer P., 2025. "Impacts and Spillovers of a Low-Cost Multifaceted Economic Inclusion Program in Chad." Policy Research Working Paper 11084.

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1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433
Telephone: 202-473-1000
Internet: www.worldbank.org

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