

To: Mr. Aurelien A. Agbenonci
UN Resident Coordinator
Mali

Date: 23 October 2012

From: Ms. Sophie De Caen
Officer-in-Charge
MDG-F Secretariat

Subject: No-cost extension request: MDGF-2012 – *“Improving Child Nutrition and Food Security in the most vulnerable municipalities in Mali”* and Request of Funds
Children, Food Security and Nutrition- Thematic Window

I. Approval Status

Reference is made to your official request submitted on August 8, 2012 and the revised submission received by the MDG-F Secretariat on October 9, 2012 revising downwards the preliminary request to a more realistic budget and proposed timeframe.

Having reviewed the two completed requests, and the confirmation by the MDG-F Steering Committee to proceed with the no-cost extension and a partial release of the 2nd year funding, we are pleased to inform you that, as per your request, the MDG-F Secretariat has granted the Joint Programme *“Improving Child Nutrition and Food Security in the most vulnerable municipalities in Mali”* a no cost extension of seven (7) months and fourteen (14) days. Thus, the new end date of the Joint Programme is 30 June 2013. Please note that this is a one-time only extension intended to allow the Joint Programme to complete its activities and achieve its expected results. At this end date, the programme should be operationally closed, so that no new financial commitments are made, only outstanding payments. Any unspent funds within the agreed timeframe (30 June 2013) will have to be reimbursed to the MDG-F.

We appreciate the corrective measures taken following the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation to address implementation issues and to accelerate the pace of implementation. We welcome the review of the strategy of implementation and adjustments made. We take note of the reflections within the National Steering Committee and the renewed commitment made by UNICEF to lead the implementation of this programme.

II. Recommendations

Regarding your request for additional funding, after careful review of the submitted documentation, the MDG-F secretariat considers the following:

- Whilst the programme has shown important advances over the last few months, and has responded well to the recommendations of the midterm evaluation, important challenges and delays in the implementation of most of the Joint Programme activities remain.

- We acknowledge the difficult humanitarian and political crisis of Mali and we are committed to supporting the achievement of planned results emerging from activities that have already started. This is particularly applicable to those activities addressing issues of food security and severe malnutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers, and their children. We do not support the start of new interventions and dispersion of activities but rather the consolidation of achievements.
- In view of the slow delivery of the activities and of the limited amount of time remaining until the closure of the Joint Programme in June, 2013, it appears that the Work Plan that was submitted to the MDG-F Secretariat is not feasible.
- Generally speaking the submitted documentation is of good quality and provides a reasonable understanding of the decisions made locally and the challenges encountered in the implementation. However, the work plan submitted does not meet the minimum quality standards. This fact has rendered difficult the task to reconcile progress and figures against the programme's Result and Resources Framework, previous work plan and the monitoring progress report containing the data on the total planned budget / funds received / funds already spent. The submitted work plan presents unnumbered activities, activities aggregated by agency and insufficient information to justify the requested budget amounts. Furthermore, the « *Taux d'exécution estimé du budget* » presented is computed in a different manner depending on the activity (sometimes it is the ratio of « Montant déboursé / Montant affecté », sometimes it is the ratio of « Montant déboursé / Montant total prévu »). For some activities, no information was available on the « Montant déboursé » making it impossible to assess progress and funding needs.

Based on the above, the MDG-F Secretariat considers that the Joint Programme will not be able to implement the total amount of funding that is being requested, and recommends to the team to focus on the consolidation of a more limited number of key activities that have already been launched and address critical humanitarian issues worsened by the current crisis. Therefore, the MDG-F Secretariat has decided to grant a partial second disbursement of USD 1,742,097 to support the following indicative activities and budget lines of the Joint Programme. These include:

- 1) Malnutrition et insécurité alimentaire réduite aux niveaux en dessous des seuils d'alerte internationaux à travers la mise en place des approches curatives et préventives intégrées :

- Appuyer 200 femmes dans le cadre du maraichage:	USD 100,162
- Appuyer 200 femmes avec 200 poules locales, coqs et abris :	USD 13,450
- L'intensification de l'embouche paysanne (ovins, caprins) :	USD 15,475
- 2) L'état nutritionnel des femmes enceintes, allaitantes, et des enfants de moins de 5 ans est amélioré par la prise en charge appropriée de la malnutrition aigüe, diminuant les taux de malnutrition : en dessous des seuils d'alerte internationaux :

- Formation/recyclage des relais communautaires :	USD 169,995
- Formation/recyclage des partenaires et des ONG :	USD 169,995
- Assistance technique aux ONG dans la prise en charge de la malnutrition aigüe:	USD 170,010
- Achat et mise à disposition des aliments thérapeutiques (RUFT, lait) :	USD 546,000
- Servir sans rupture les centres en complément alimentaire :	USD 521 130

- 3) Les plans de développement locaux deviennent des interventions nutritionnelles et de sécurité alimentaire :
 - NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- 4) Les capacités de suivi, évaluation, analyse, prise de décision et mise en place d'interventions nutritionnelles et de sécurité alimentaire adaptées sont renforcées dans la zone :
 - Améliorer la nutrition des enfants de 0 à 5 ans : USD 35,880

Whilst we take note of your two additional requests for funding including the coordination unit and the execution and equipment for the bore holes, we would like to invite you to re-submit the revised work plan with a total resource envelope of \$ USD 1,742,097. The revised work plan should take account of the indicative activities and budget lines proposed above and adjust them accordingly to accommodate expenses related to the bore holes and running costs for coordination unit and UN agency monitoring. We remain available for any further discussion.

III. Monitoring and Reporting

Biannual monitoring reports should continue to be prepared and submitted to the MDG-F Secretariat. Please be reminded that each Joint Programme is responsible for conducting its final evaluation prior to the closure of the programme and sharing the final report with the MDG-F Secretariat a month after the end date and no later than 31st July 2013.

We would highly appreciate it if you could forward this memo to all participating UN agencies to the joint programme, and each participating UN agency should forward the memo to their corresponding HQs. Further information on the closure of programmes is available on the revised "MDG-F Joint Implementation Guidelines" uploaded on the MDG-F website (www.mdgfund.org).

With best wishes.

cc.:

Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
Mr. Tegegnetwork Gettu, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Africa, UNDP, New York
Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP New York
MDG-F Secretariat