



Mali Support to Youth Entrepreneurs Project, PAJE-Nièta

Purpose

The USAID-funded Mali Support to Youth Entrepreneurs Project (known also by its French name *Projet d'Appui aux Jeunes Entrepreneurs* or PAJE-Nièta) accompanies out-of-school youth on the path to becoming more educated, economically productive, and civically engaged in their communities. Through a combination of basic education, work readiness, and technical training, which includes practical hands-on experience, PAJE-Nièta provides young people with the relevant skills, knowledge, and attitudes to adapt to the needs of the Malian economy.

Objectives

1. Increase access to basic education for out-of-school Malian youth
2. Increase access to quality professional and technical training for Malian youth
3. Develop sustainable entrepreneurship and employment networks
4. Provide youth with civic engagement activities and community development projects

Activities include

1. Integration of basic education, work readiness, and hands-on technical skills training
2. Accompaniment by a Malian volunteer throughout the program
3. Mobile phone-based literacy and numeracy education and work-readiness training
4. Informed selection, initiation, and management of a micro-enterprise
5. Internal governance, management, civic engagement, and resource mobilization training for community youth associations

Partners

Swisscontact
 Catholic Relief Services
 Association Jeunesse Action Mali (AJA)
 Association Malienne pour la Survie au Sahel (AMSS)



PAJE-Nièta helps Malian youth realize their aspiration of becoming successful entrepreneurs, by enhancing their livelihoods through improved learning and training opportunities.

— Scott Isbrandt, Chief of Party

Populations Served

Between 2010 and 2015, PAJE-Nièta aims to train 12,000 young men and women, aged 14 to 25, in rural and peri-urban areas. The project operates in four of Mali's seven regions: Sikasso, Koulikoro, Kayes, and Timbuktu. PAJE will also support youth as they move towards employment and economic independence, helping them develop their own pathway to entrepreneurship through the initiation and management of an economically viable micro-enterprise.

EQUIP3 Youth Study

PAJE-Nièta began its activities based on a study of the needs and aspirations of Malian youth conducted by USAID/EQUIP3. This assessment showed that Malian youth prefer to undertake economic activities within their own communities if such opportunities exist. In particular, youth identified the agro-pastoral and artisanal trades and services sectors as potential activities.

Contact Information

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