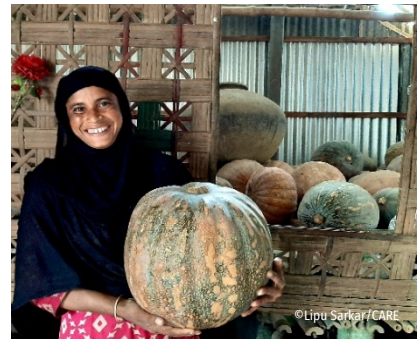


CARE Stories of Impact: Farm Bill

SHOUHARDO III: Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities

SHOUHARDO III aims to achieve improved gender equitable food and nutrition security and resilience for 475,228 poor and extremely poor women, adolescent girls, children under five, men, and youth in the Char and Haor regions of Bangladesh. The program is funded by USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance and the Government of Bangladesh.

Khadiza is a SHOUHARDO III program participant who has built a successful farming business. Under an Income Generating Activity (IGA) initiative, Khadiza received an on-farm goat rearing training from Farmers Field and Business School (FFBS) and also received Co-Occupational Group (COG) support under SHOUHARDO III program. She received a loan of BDT 3,000 (USD 35.42) as financial support for buying goats. Five years later, Khadiza and her husband are growing pumpkins and onions and rearing poultry, which provides enough income for them to build a new house and a latrine, and pay for their three daughters' educational costs. Khadiza is also now able to engage in decision-making for different family matters as an income-earning member of the family.



Khadiza, the successful pumpkin farmer.

Hamzari



Hamissou Labo with his livestock.

Hamzari, meaning “move quickly and steadily towards the goal” in the Hausa language, is a seven-year food security development activity funded by USAID through the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). Hamzari’s main goal is to directly address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition in one of Niger’s highest-risk regions, the Maradi region.

One way that Hamzari supports livestock production is by setting up and strengthening the capacities of community agents providing animal health services, commonly called Livestock Assistants. This approach solves the problem of accessibility at the local level to quality services in the areas of animal health and livestock support.

Hamissou Labo, a Livestock Assistant in the village of Tsouloulou, says, “Before the intervention of Hamzari, I was a simple farmer, and my annual production never covered my food needs. This forced me to leave my village every year, even though I am my family’s breadwinner, to go to Niamey to visit my brothers in the hope of finding a job. With the arrival of Hamzari, I was lucky enough to be proposed as a livestock assistant by the community of my village.” Visibly very satisfied with the benefits of his service within the community, Labo continues, “Following my selection, I received training and a supply of products and some start-up materials for a total value of about 80,000 CFA francs”. Thanks to this activity, Hamissou Labo is now able to provide for his family of thirteen people, including children of his deceased brother.

Hamzari provided inclusive technical training opportunities for 1,168 people who received scholarships for adapted training and apprenticeship opportunities in a technical trade of their choice such as sewing, mechanics, welding, and beauty services. 56% of TVET participants were adolescent girls and young women. 280 youth were training in business plan development using their trades and professional skillset. 60% of Hamzari's TVET scholarships were allocated to adolescent girls and young women for both entry level and advanced skills training tracks. Through partnership with local vocational schools, the program ensured youth received proper training and secured the participation of established professionals to help youth develop and refine their technical skills to seek wages or self-employment.

HATUTAN

HATUTAN is a five-year initiative funded by the McGovern-Dole program at USDA, which aims to improve literacy, health and nutrition outcomes for children and adults in Timor-Leste. To achieve this result, HATUTAN is working with the Government of Timor-Leste to support 445 schools and surrounding communities throughout four of Timor-Leste's most disadvantaged municipalities. One of the HATUTAN program's main objectives is to support the Government of Timor-Leste's implementation of the school feeding program in all basic education and preschools throughout the school year.



Students in the HATUTAN program.



Elda*, a 12-year-old participant in the HATUTAN program.

The HATUTAN program reduced dropout across grades 1-6 in participating schools, while dropout rates increased in all grades in schools that were not participants in the HATUTAN program. In a focus group, teachers reported, "The number of attendances has increased. When the school meal is provided and when we prepare a meal, we check the attendance lists and compared them. The previous numbers were smaller, sometimes there were only around 100 students. Now and maybe in the coming days, when the students assemble in the front yard and we count them, there were more than 200 students." The program also reduced learning losses by 52% on reading fluency and by 42% for reading comprehension.

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VSLAs

Since 1991, CARE has helped over 13.7 million people join Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). An evaluation of several VSLAs, including four funded through Food for Peace Title II, found that VSLAs increase savings and income, bolster food security, and improve education access. A typical member of a moderately successful savings group sees their total savings increase by 153% over the first year of participation. Income also increases for members over time. Among individuals who can be followed over time, the average monthly income increase over the next five years is 6-fold. Between 80% and 89% of women in a savings group increased their income over the five years after initially joining. Additionally, between 64% and 80% of women used that extra income for family education.



Members of a women-led savings group in Niger.

One in five households who joined a savings group consumed an extra meal per day, up from a typical 1 to 2 meals per day. For programs that can follow households for at least two years, we find that VSLA member households who started in positions of extreme food insecurity achieved a 75-80% increase in food security. VSLA member households who started in positions of moderate food insecurity achieved a 40-50% increase in food security.

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