

Monitoring Report (for publication)

Contract number:	ADA: 6544-00/2017 & 6544-01/2017 EU: T05-EUTF-SAH-BF-06
Project/programme title:	TUUMA: Strengthening of professional skills, entrepreneurship and employment of youth and women in rural areas in Burkina Faso
Country / countries / region:	Burkina Faso: Cascades, Boucle du Mouhoun, Nord, Hauts Bassins, and Province of Soum in the Sahel region
Implementing Organisation/s:	Austrian Development Agency & national implementing organisations
Project duration:	01.01.2018 - 30.06.2023
Interlocutors:	EU delegation Burkina Faso, TUUMA project team, ADA coordination office,

Project progress

- Progress in achieving project outcome(s) and outputs per logical framework:
Most project activities have been concluded. Due to the deteriorating security context and its effects on the administrative closure of grants, the project had to be extended by another three months (new end date: 30.6.2023). Certain outcome and output indicators are currently overachieved (e.g. increase SME revenue; number of beneficiaries trained) while others are underachieved (e.g. number of jobs created, number of SMEs created). Reported underachievement is mainly due to two reasons. Firstly, the M&E data collection (e.g. job survey) could not take place in all project zones due to security issues and only verified jobs and SME creation are reported. Secondly, several of the assumptions underpinning the logical framework and target setting are no longer valid, particularly the assumption "socio-political stability of the region". The deterioration of the security situation since the project's conception in 2017 has had a significant destabilizing effect that led to two coups. The security situation also directly affected the implementation of economic initiatives (e.g., rescheduling of interventions or temporary suspension of activities, displacement of beneficiaries). A final evaluation is planned with a focus on assessing the effectiveness and sustainability of the project.
- Assessment of project expenditures: (slow/as planned/adequate?)
Project expenditure is considered adequate. Grant recipient reimbursements are closely followed up by the project team.
- How do you assess measures taken to manage gender, social and environmental impact (follow-up of any recommendations from the EGSi assessment, if applicable)?
As far as possible given the insecurity situation, further capacity development measures for enabling compliance with EGSIM safeguards and management of environmental, gender and social risks for local partners (particularly regional councils) should be considered in future programmes and projects financed/implemented by ADA.
- Are risk assessment and risk management plans up to date? How do you assess the functioning of risk monitoring and risk management of the project?
The risk assessment and risk management plan are updated at least annually.
- Has the project encountered unexpected challenges? If yes, please explain.

The administrative closure of grants requires more time and resources than anticipated. Firstly, grant beneficiaries' limited capacity requires close follow-up and support to ensure that the final reports correspond to the requirements. Secondly, the difficult security situation has rendered some project zones inaccessible and some beneficiaries are completely cut-off from the outside world.

6. How do you assess perspectives for impact and sustainability of the intervention? (only if monitoring visit takes place towards the end of the project)

The impact and sustainability of the project are negatively affected by the worsening national context. The TUUMA entrepreneurship club approach with its potential for self-driving upscaling appears promising to enhance the impact and solidify the long-term sustainability of the project results.

In the TOR for the final evaluation, evaluation questions concerning sustainability have been included.

7. How have past recommendations (incl. evaluations) been considered (if applicable)?
New recommendations (to whom)?

Given the worsening security context and implementation challenges not all previous recommendations could be implemented. In light of the changed context, certain recommendations have been reformulated. During the monitoring visit additional recommendations have been formulated not only to the TUUMA team, but also CO and HO to support TUUMA project closure.

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Date: Monitoring mission 27.3. – 3.4.2023