



USAID | WEST AFRICA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

RELEASE IN FULL

SUCCESS STORY

Increasing Local Resilience in Chad through Bread and Biscuits



Three youth, trained by PDev II to make local breads and biscuits, came together to develop their business. From left to right : Mokhtar Mahamat , Sackiné Mahamat, and Ramada Yaya

"Through this initiative we want to serve as a model for other youth who want to try to achieve as we do." Ramada Yaya



Telling Our Story
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

Recently 23 students in Chad completed the PDev II local bread and biscuit training program. Two participants, Mokhtar, 15, and Sackiné, 16, had been abandoned by their parents five years ago and now live with their aunt. A third participant, Ramada Yaya, is motherless, and lives with her father who is paralyzed. She is 16, and the sole provider for the family.

Students selected for this training by their 10th District Community Action Committee (CAC) were identified due to their vulnerability to extremism and exposure to ethnic conflict. Their abilities to meet very basic needs were challenged. The three of them, and others in the group, are confronted by similar constraints daily. They often spend their days at Koranic school, and their free time doing domestic work, if possible, to earn some income.

The training provided the group with the necessary tools and skills to start up local production immediately in the district markets. Selected youth were divided into groups of three to four to work as a team, and were provided with initial materials: flour, oil, grinding wheels, sugar, and a locally-fabricated oven. The local CAC provided guidance to the young bakers, and helped them integrate their small bakery into the community as well as gain access to the market area. As one trainee noted, "This training has allowed us to come together and work as a team with our neighbors, and escape the streets."

The participants bake three large trays of cakes a day, and "we deliver these cakes and biscuits every other day to five or six shops in our town, which allows us to earn 15,000 CFA francs (\$30 US) per person per week." Additionally, "sometimes we receive a large, special order, because we make very good breads and cakes for weddings, birthdays, celebrations, baptisms, and other meetings." "For these orders, we can make special cream cakes or madeleines. The money we get ensures our school tuition, notebooks, supplies, and basic needs for our families."

These trained young bakers have saved money from regular sales to manufacture baked goods in larger quantities so that their businesses can grow. They plan to recruit other youth in similar situations to expand their products. They want to show how their work and initiative can serve as a model for other vulnerable youth with similar constraints and challenges. The recent graduates cited, "We thank PDev II for the training and we are very grateful for the positive changes in our lives."