

Executive summary

The main results of the evaluation of the Mother's Clubs approach show that all of the activities have had a positive impact on the living conditions of households (health, education, food, equipment and productive assets)¹.

Resilience funds (sometimes called operating funds or IGA funds) which facilitate access to credit for women (from 18% to 89% depending on the assessment) have enabled a general increase in members' incomes by promoting the implementation of individual income-generating activities (IGA) (72% of women have used credits to strengthen or diversify their livelihoods, and 74% of them perceive a very significant or significant increase in their income), even if this increase is limited in part because of the dependence on climatic conditions (mainly agricultural activities in the rural sector), the insufficient capacity to identify the sectors or activities that present more opportunities and the lack of mastery of appropriate management techniques. This increase resulted in an improvement in the participation of women in the family economy and therefore in a certain empowerment and emancipation.

Recognition of Mothers' Clubs members also involves acquiring knowledge and recognition from the entire community, which embraces clubs as a driver of change and development. We observe behavioral changes within communities, particularly in the area of health and nutrition, through community activities such as awareness-raising, screening, educational talks, etc.

The activities of the Mothers' Clubs have enabled social cohesion, in particular by promoting spaces for dialogue between club members but also within communities themselves.

Opening up the range of MCs activities, collective IGAs form a pillar which strengthens the functioning of clubs. However, the evaluation has shown that the profitability of its activities has so far been limited for the reasons mentioned above. These limited results do not make it possible to fund the resilience funds sufficiently and the amounts of the funds then remain dependent on the members' contributions. In this sense, the evaluation also shows a positive impact in terms of access to credit (increase in the number of credits and the amounts granted) when the project includes external bailout support (bailout fund).

Mothers' Club approach in Chad is a sustainable approach given the sustainability of club activities and the will of their members to continue or even improve their functioning (83% of MCs are still functional after the finalization of projects). Not only do existing clubs gradually begin to carry out their activities outside their own community, but also members encourage the creation of other clubs. This sustainability is undoubtedly the result of several factors:

- A certain flexibility in the functioning of MCs: the operating rules of each club (contribution, reimbursement of credits, amounts, etc.) are not imposed and are the result of the appropriation of the approach on the part of the members, the analysis of their capacities and the objectives they wish to achieve.
- **Efficiency in covering needs** of members: improvement of living conditions.
- An awareness of the role of MCs in community development.

The formation of a coherent volunteer space around the fundamental principles of the Red Cross remains a challenge so far. It is essential to build a common mobilization between the local committees of the Red Cross and the MCs, in particular by promoting the participation of each in the activities of the other and thus achieving more significant impacts.

Mothers Clubs (MC): groups of around 20 women, volunteers and members of the Red Cross. They are characterized by these four pillars:

- The adherence of members to the principles and values of the Red Cross, in particular volunteering.
- Community activities, mainly awareness
- The contribution to common funds:
 - health solidarity fund (CSS)
 - and resilience fund (IGA)
- The development of collective economic initiatives (not compulsory)

¹ 79% of the members questioned consider very important or important the changes in their living conditions since the start of MCs activities.