



## **Integration of psychosocial stimulation for children with severe acute malnutrition (aged 6–23 months) into a nutrition programme in Koutiala, Mali: the STIMNUT study**

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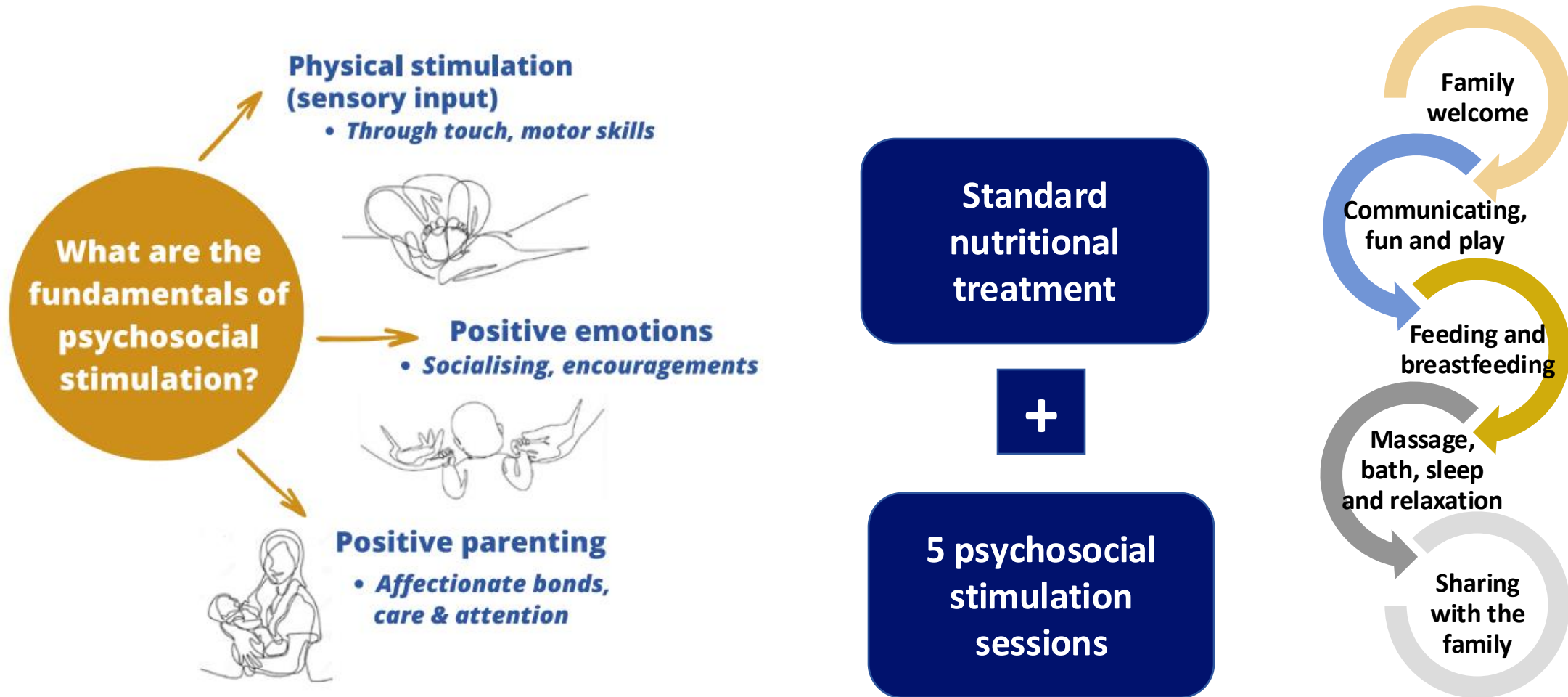
### **Conflicts of interest**

All authors declare no competing interests.

### **Ethics**

This study was approved by the Médecins Sans Frontières Ethics Review Board (Protocol ID: 2210) and the National Ethics Committee for Health and Life Sciences of Bamako in Mali (Protocol ID: 2022097).

# Psychosocial stimulation integrated into Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment: StimNut





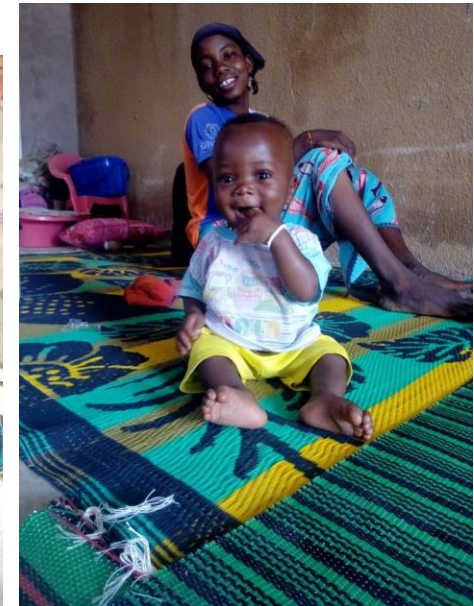
# Psychosocial stimulation sessions offered to families

## •149 sessions

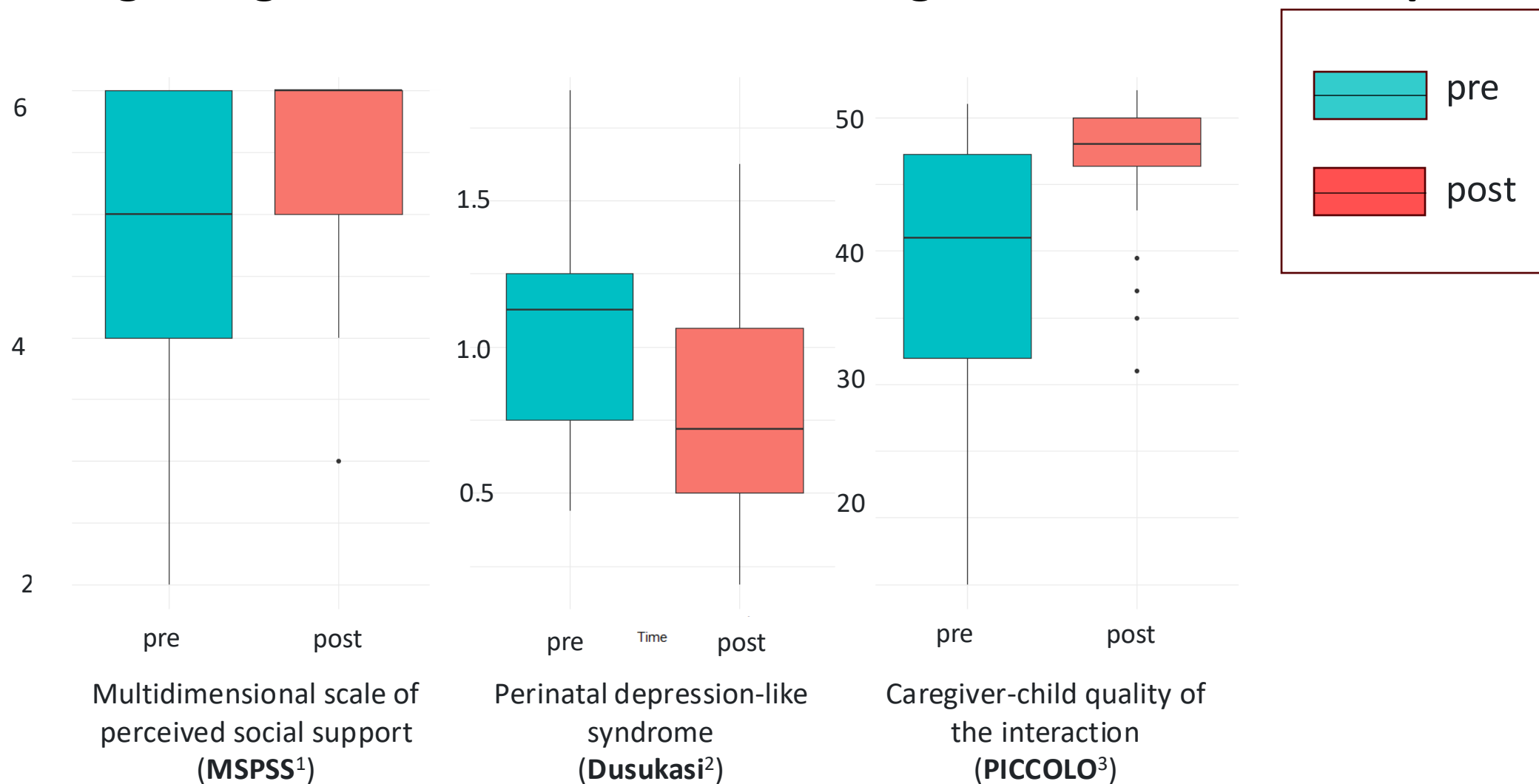
- Individuals (80%) or collective
- During health center visits (77%) or at hospital (21%)
- By 3 trained **psychosocial workers** supervised by an online psychologist
- Median time by session: 54min [IQR : 40-64], 42min for the first to 58min for the last

## •Key Principles:

- Empathetic, non-judgmental, and respectful.
- Focus on creating a **safe environment** for **families**.
- Explore avenues for **improving the care** of SAM children and **maternal mental health** while supporting **parental competencies** and **strengthening parent-child relationships**.

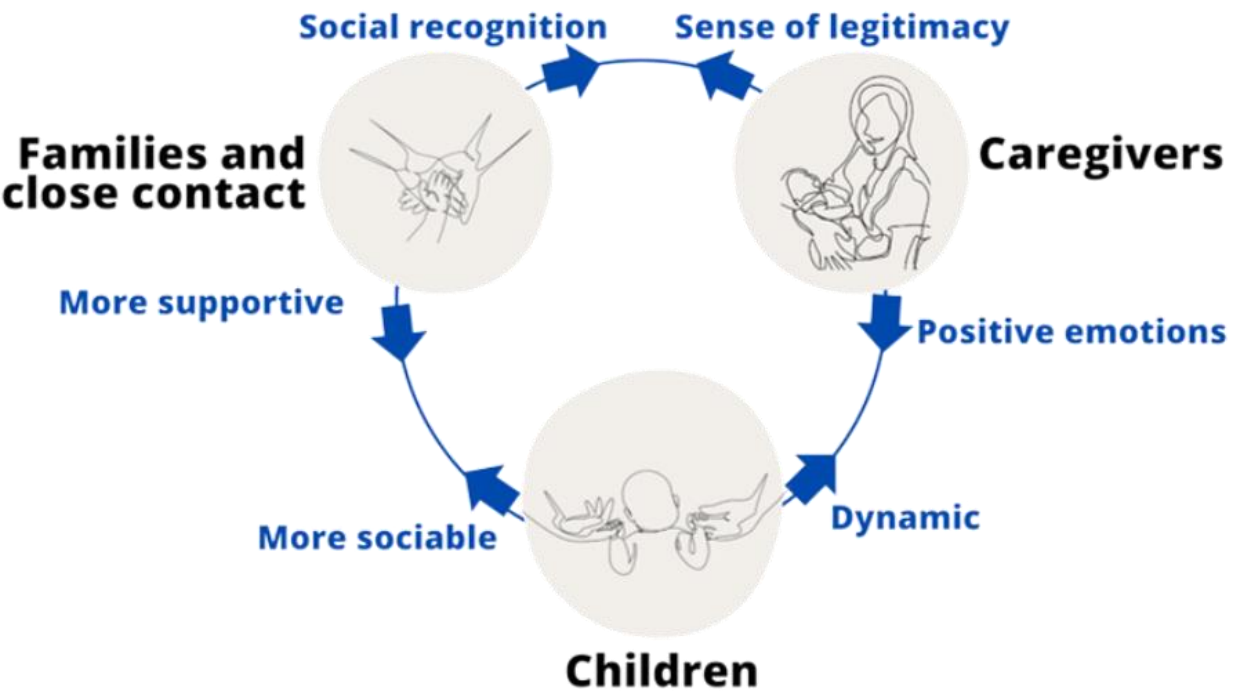


# Improving caregiver mental health and caregiver-child relationship

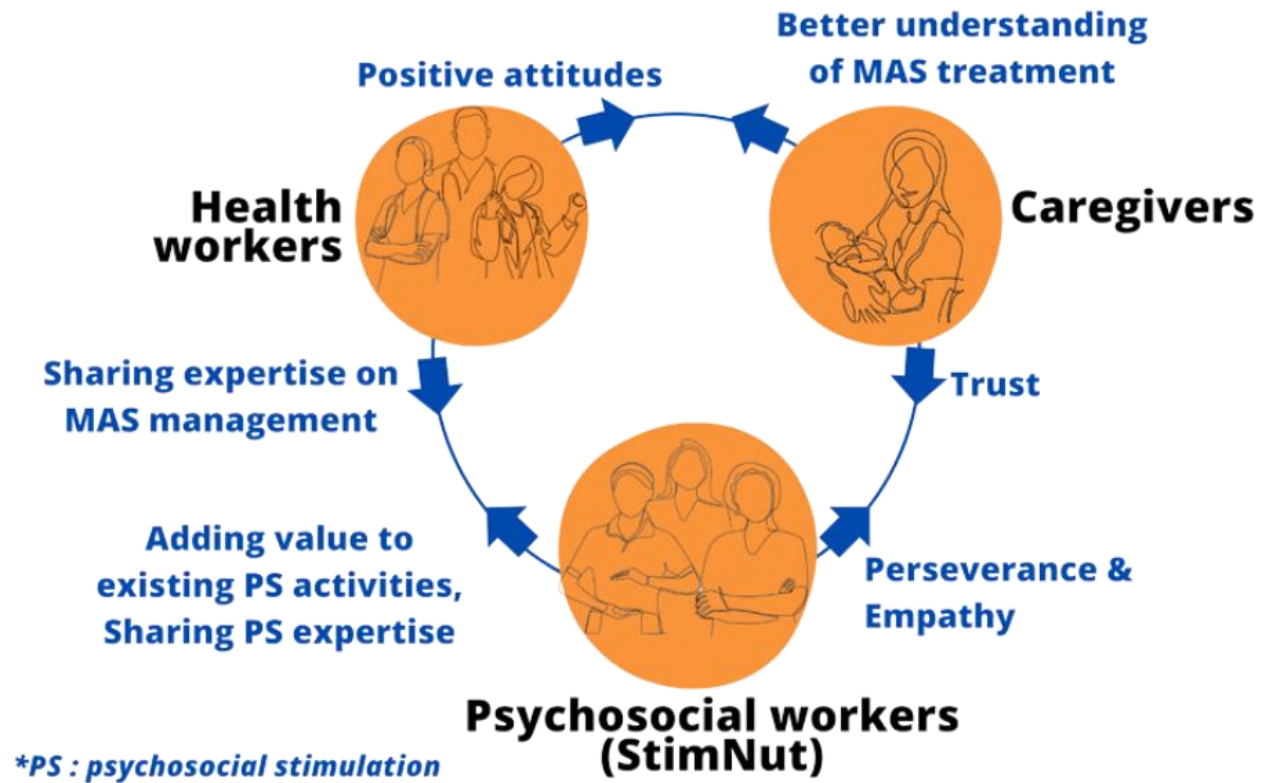
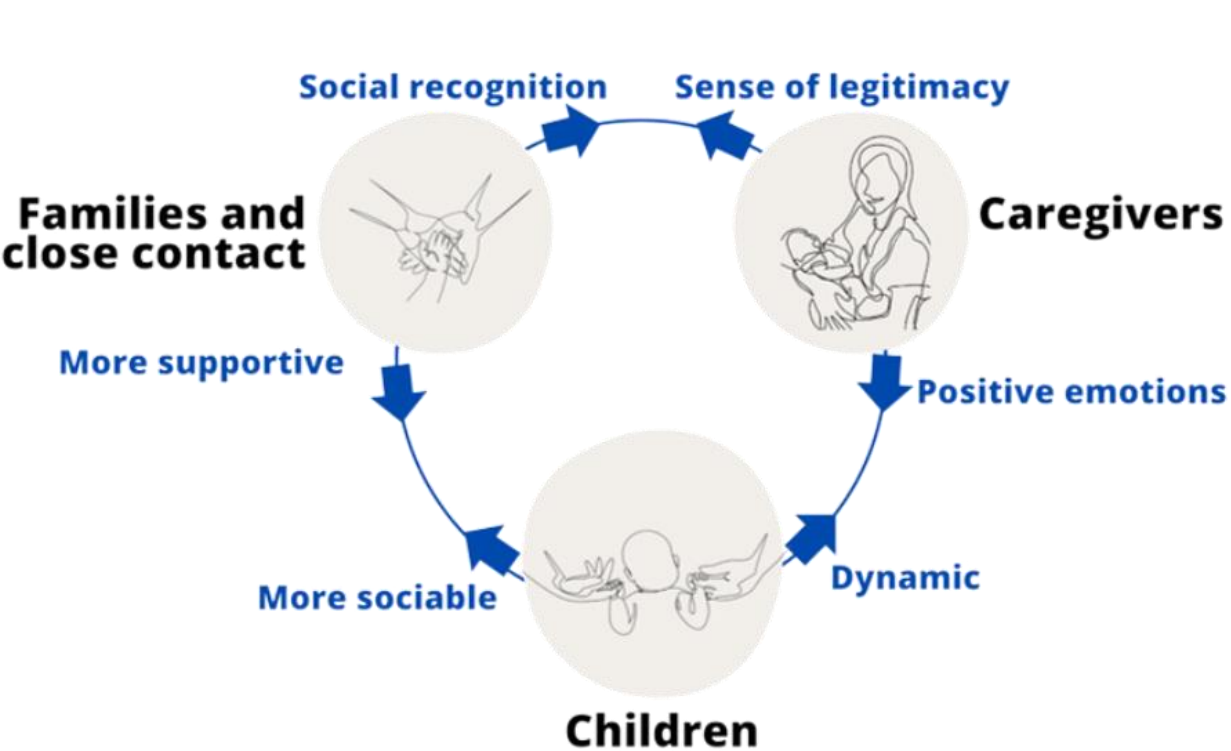


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# Improving relationships within families and healthcare facilities



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# Main takeaways



**Feasibility and Acceptability:** The intervention showed strong feasibility and was well-accepted by mothers, healthcare staff, and psychosocial workers.



**Successful Collaboration:** There was effective synergy between various stakeholders, contributing to the intervention's success.



**Positive Outcomes:** Encouraging results were seen in maternal and child health and overall well-being.



**Transformative Impact:** The study has enabled the continuation of psychosocial services within the care pathway for SAM children and their mothers in Koutiala.



**Scale up:** Identified needs in other contexts have led to ongoing discussions about scaling up the intervention (toolkit under development)