

**Authors' Statement of Reflexivity**

This research, financed by the AFD, was developed following a series of interviews with the actors of this programme to define their leading questions and expectations concerning research on the PADSS2 programme. This research corresponds to the expectations of Mali's social protection actors, particularly the group of experts in charge of drawing up the RAMU. The AFD also expects this study to contribute to the capitalisation of this PADSS2 pilot programme. A Malian research association carried it out, Miseli. They worked in a good partnership with the UTM, the holder of the innovative mutualist programme within the framework of PADSS2, and the other stakeholders. In the context of insecurity, data collection in the field was primarily carried out by the two Malian research assistants. All means were used to ensure the security of these two colleagues who took no risk to their physical integrity and could leave the areas at any time. They write the observation notes in order and transcribed the interviews conducted in the national language. Pauline Boivin and Laurence Touré performed the interviews at the national level. The results were interpreted by the two researchers and submitted for discussion to the head of the UTM in Mopti and other researchers. The article was written by Laurence Touré, with Valery Ridde contributing to the introduction. The paper was proofread and amended by UTM and all co-authors. The article was written in French to allow all French-speaking authors to participate in writing and then translated into English for this special issue. All ethical issues were considered, and the interview participants' anonymity was respected.

