



Strengthening Human Rights in Mali

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STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

USAID's Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG) Strategy provides a framework to support the establishment and consolidation of inclusive and accountable democracies to advance freedom, dignity, and development. The strategy also elevates human rights as a key USAID development objective. Supporting these themes, USAID/Mali's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) goal, *Maliens Secure a Democratic, Resilient, and Prosperous Future*, requires respect for human rights and a government and civil society that are capable of identifying, documenting and responding to human rights violations.

This project will help the Government of Mali to respond effectively to human rights violations committed during Mali's coup d'état and political crisis by increasing civil society's human rights advocacy role and visibility in the protection of human rights. Specific objectives are to:

- 1) Strengthen the capacity of Malian civil society organizations (CSOs) to monitor the government's implementation of the 2013 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, particularly those related to the recent crisis;
- 2) Advocate for the rights of victims of human rights violations, particularly those from underrepresented groups; and
- 3) Assist Malian CSOs to conduct trial monitoring of prosecutions against high-level perpetrators of human rights violations.

Specific Activities Include:

- Assist CSOs to build their financial and technical capacity to monitor progress on implementation of UPR human rights recommendations
- Strengthen CSOs' capacity to advocate for implementation of the UPR recommendations
- Collect and distribute data on UPR implementation by the Government of Mali to inform CSO advocacy efforts
- Identify and document human rights abuses and help victims access justice and social services
- Improve CSOs' capacity to use impact litigation to promote the rights of victims
- Train Malian judges, lawyers, and prosecutors to litigate sexual and gender-based violence crimes
- Monitor Human Rights violations trials
- Conduct public awareness campaigns to inform Malians on the results of Human Rights trials

Expected Results:

- 60 Human Rights Defenders will receive financial, technical and operational assistance
- 400 Human Rights abuse cases will be identified and documented
- Communications tools including a nation-wide human rights website will be developed to increase Malian's access to human rights information

Project Information:

- Implementing Partners:
 - Freedom House
 - American Bar Association
- Budget: \$750,000
- Life of Project: 2015-2016

Project Contacts:

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For More Information: