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USAID MALI

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND FIGHTING CORRUPTION

SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI

USAID currently partners with the Government of Mali through its **Sub-National Governance Program** to ensure that public funds are delivered effectively and transparently at the regional level. Since 2016, USAID has supported Mali's Supreme Audit Institution (Contrôle Général des Services Publics or CGSP) in the fight against corruption by monitoring public spending to the national and sub-national levels. In addition, the Program embeds technical advisers in the Ministry of Economy and Finance to assist their assessments of resource transfers to subnational entities and their utilization to strengthen Mali's public financial management system.

Main Achievements:

- Updated the CGSP's audit tools to conform to the standards of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions.
- Created a "Performance Audit Unit" within the CGSP, equipped with trained and certified auditors and tools to support the development and validation of 37 regional audit missions. This accounted for 93% of the local governments audited in 2018 as reported by the central government auditing body.
- Completed performance audit pilot missions on regional hospital management in Ségou and Sikasso; on girls schooling in Kayes and Koulikoro; on government decentralization in Mopti; and on access to water in Segou.
- Conducted financial management risk evaluations of ten ministries.
- Organized 10 public hearings on budget disbursement processes to help facilitate discussions on subnational entity administrative accounts at both the regional and national levels.
- Organized public debates in Bamako, Sikasso and Koulikoro on audit reports published by CGSP, the General Investigator, and the Supreme Court, as well as 20 public debates on the 2018 national budget.
- Supported CSGP's website, <https://cgsp.ml> to ensure large dissemination of audit reports and improve transparency as measured on the Open Budget Index.
- Completed training of trainers for Malian controllers on financial and performance audit.

SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Focusing bottom-up citizen empowerment, USAID's **Civic Engagement Program** promotes effective civic engagement for improved public accountability by strengthening citizens' role in the community's development processes. Overcoming barriers of mutual distrust, corruption, and poor inclusion of women/youth/people with

disabilities, as well as a poor understanding of citizen's rights and responsibilities, the Program works with 18 civil society organizations and four people with disabilities' organizations to provide local oversight and accountability of government actions, advocate for citizens involvement in governance issues, and improve citizens' participation, especially from marginalized groups. The Program's community radio programming serves to educate and engage citizens for better understanding of Malians' rights and offer tools for advocacy. Activities are implemented in Bamako, Kayes, Sikasso, Segou, Tombouctou, and Mopti.

Main Achievements:

- Conducted 69 trainings of 467 people to improve transparency, accountability, and advocacy.
- Supported 36 organizations representing marginalized constituencies trying to affect government policy or conducting government oversight.
- Organized 286 awareness raising sessions for 5,079 participants on local governance, accountability, advocacy, national legal texts and instruments, improved services delivery and increased civic engagement.
- Revitalized 518 community based organizations to provide oversight to track public finance management.
- Established and facilitated 59 mechanisms for external monitoring of the use of public resources.
- Conducted 44 advocacy initiatives to improve the quality of services.
- Produced radio debates on good governance and accountability, discussing tax collection, resource management and the need for transparency.

AWARENESS RAISING ALONG MAJOR TRADE CORRIDORS

USAID's **Mali Justice Project** works to reduce corruption, roadside harassment, and exploitation along key trade corridor routes in the agricultural zone receiving US Foreign Assistance, specifically from Sikasso to Koury, Heremakono, and Zegoua. Through public information campaigns, advocacy, and gender-sensitive legal assistance, the Project targets traders/merchants who encounter potentially predatory government-manned checkpoints. Efforts work to expose corruption through public reporting and upholding merchants' rights and responsibilities. To date, an anti-corruption platform has been established to coordinate between stakeholders and two anti-corruption legal support centers or "citizen advocacy offices" that are run by civil society organizations. Victims of corruption, harassment, and losses stemming from public agents use these centers to file their grievances. The centers are also linked to a media campaign broadcast via local radio stations that will raise citizen awareness about their legal rights and responsibilities against illicit rent-seeking public servants.

Main Achievements:

- 476 elected people in regional councils are managing public affairs in a transparent and accountable way.
- 36 local organizations representing marginalized constituencies have skills to do oversight of government policies.
- More than 5000 people have an understanding on local governance, accountability, advocacy, national legal texts through 286 awareness raising sessions.
- 518 local organizations have skills to do oversight of public finance management.
- 56 external monitoring mechanisms are operational.
- Local organizations have conducted 44 advocacy actions.
- Malians are aware of the good governance system, tax collection and resource management through radios debates.