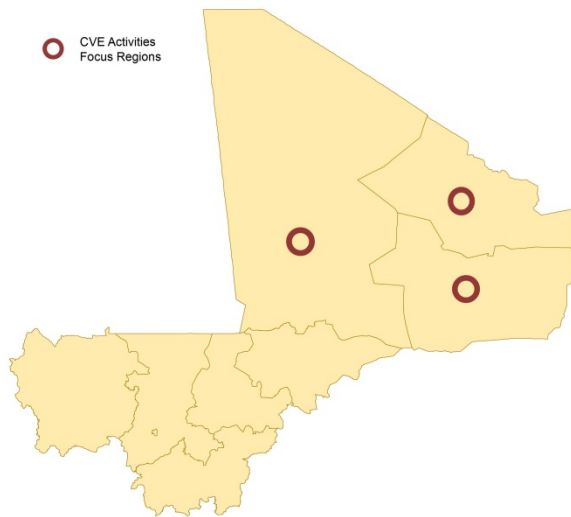




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# USAID MALI COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE) ACTIVITY



The Peace, Democracy, and Governance Office manages a \$30.1 million portfolio to address Countering Violent Extremism. The purpose of USAID Mali’s Countering Violent Extremism interventions is to target vulnerable communities to support and build capacity in resilience to address conflict, radicalization and violent extremism and to help bring peace and reconciliation to Mali.

## USAID’S APPROACH AND RESPONSE

Stabilization of conflict – affected areas is the first Transition Objective outlined in USAID Mali’s 2015-2020 Country Development Cooperation Strategy. USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Food for Peace, Health and Education Offices continue to provide a base for desperately needed long-term development efforts in central Mali, especially in Tenenkou, Youwarou, Douentza, Bandiagara circles, and Mopti, all identified as having the highest need with the greatest potential for resilience programming. They are also part of the “Feed the Future” zone of influence. Today’s deteriorating security situation in most of these circles underlines the necessity for urgent action, to stop the spread of instability having a catastrophic effect on Mali’s ability to recover from

political, social, economic, and climatic shocks. USAID/Mali and other donors are therefore looking to transition out of the emergency assistance phase and into longer – term, sustainable and scalable peacebuilding, stabilization, and reconciliation activities to build on these investments and support implementation of the vision outlined in the Peace Accord.

## **MALI PEACE INITIATIVE**

The Mali Peace Initiative (MPI), implemented by AECOM, works with Malian government and local communities to strengthen targeted communities' resilience to conflict and radicalization through small grants to address priority development and reconciliation needs. The goal is to see measurable improvement in the efficiency, effectiveness and capacities of the local communities to be more resilient to the conflict and violent extremism. This program focuses on Gao and Kidal regions. **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS :** MPI supported the government to develop a national Countering Violent Extremism Strategy which is officially adopted. This strategy is a framework for civil engagement in the prevention of violent extremism. This project contributed to the rehabilitation and the reopening of Kidal high school closed since 2012. More than 500 students are back to school.

## **ADVANCED RECONCILIATION AND PROMOTING PEACE**

USAID/Mali's Conflict Mitigation Reconciliation Program called Advanced Reconciliation and Promoting Peace (ARPP) will contribute to the goal of securing a peaceful future for malians by advancing the peace process, promoting the reconciliation, and reducing youth violence and involvement in armed extremist groups. Implemented by Mercy Corps, the program work towards this goal in the regions of Gao, Menaka and Timbuktu. **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS :** Traditional, religious and elected leaders across ethnic communities in 200 villages have received training in conflict resolution. Over 20 inter-ethnic women's peace committees promote the peace process through information sharing on the peace accord, provision of psychosocial counseling and reconciliation promotion. The program also helped to create 100 inter-ethnic sport clubs to engage at-risk youth ages 15 – 24 as sport team members and youth ages 25 – 29 as coaches.

## **PARTICIPATORY PEACE PROCESS**

The Participatory Peace Process Activity, implemented by (*Association Malienne pour la Survie au Sahel/AMSS* in French), works to strengthen the commune-level conflict mediation groups (CMGs) that respond to inter-/intra ethnic divisions and the natural resource and political issues related to these divisions. Although other conflict drivers subsist in the north, the project will hone on inter-/intra-ethnic divisions because of their pervasiveness in Timbuktu and their potential to ignite violent conflict in the region. **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS :** Over 100 women and youth are engaged in conflict mediation. The commune-level conflict mediation groups successfully mediated 31 conflicts in the targeted areas.

## **PEACEBUILDING STABILIZATION AND RECONCILIATION**

The Peacebuilding Stabilization and Reconciliation Activity aims to improve prospects for long – term peace, security, and reconciliation by building trust between conflict – affected communities and their government, strengthening the ability of communities to mitigate and manage conflict, prioritize and implement their community's most pressing development needs, and empowering marginalized youth as change agents. This upcoming project will support conflict affected communities to develop and implement early warning and response systems, develop non – violent conflict mitigation and management mechanisms and provide support to victims of violence. The project will also focus on rebuilding relationships and trust between citizens and government representatives through inclusive governance, civic engagement and support the implementation of key government strategies to stabilize northern and central Mali.