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## USAID MALI

# EMPOWERING MALIANS THROUGH ELECTION, REFORM AND GOVERNANCE EFFORTS (EMERGE)

### STRONG CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Empowering Malians through Election, Reform and Governance Efforts (EMERGE) Project aims to advance peace, reconciliation and more accountable governance through credible and inclusive national elections. The program will be achieved by strengthening the capacity of citizens to participate in the 2018 elections as voters, activists, observers and candidates, and to advocate for key elections and political processes reforms and improved governance following the elections. EMERGE will leverage two decades of institutional partnerships formed with Malian civil society, including women's organizations, media and political parties, to enhance citizen engagement and transparency in Malian electoral processes.

### FOR INCLUSIVE AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

Aligned with the national polls, the program will establish stronger linkages between the government and citizens with the ultimate goal of improved civic engagement, electoral transparency and government accountability. The program would activate women and youth as drivers of change and would empower local partners to lead key activities. The program has three main components:

- Promote informed citizen participation in the 2018 electoral process, focusing on women, youth and others from traditionally marginalized groups.
- Strengthen public confidence in the elections by supporting credible, nonpartisan domestic organizations to effectively monitor the entire electoral process and to advocate for key elections and political processes reforms.
- Support civil society and political parties to increase women's leadership and political participation, in keeping with the 2015 gender law and support political parties to contribute to a peaceful election.

#### EMERGE'S EXPECTED RESULTS

The two-year (2018 – 2020), \$6 million project aims to:

- Develop and promote women's public policy agenda in advance of the 2018 elections;
- Help to update, adopt and promote the code of conduct for political parties;
- Provide accurate coverage of the electoral process through Malian media;
- Strengthen women activists to run for office, manage campaigns and assume party leadership positions;
- Strengthen civil society organizations to develop and implement coordinated and effective voter education and voter mobilization strategies.