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# EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN AREAS OF INSECURITY

## EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

Since 2012, Mali has been facing series of complex emergency situations, including armed conflict in the North. This situation has weakened the capacity of the country to deliver basic education services, particularly in areas where the government has little or no control, such as Kidal and Menaka. In these areas, the challenges are multiple: absence of teachers; closed, occupied and damaged schools; loss or lack of school materials and equipment; absence of school administration; insecurity on the way and in schools; displacement of teachers and children; and psychological trauma as a result of protracted violence. Since the beginning of the conflict more than 219 schools (200 in Gao and Timbuktu, and 19 in Kidal) have been destroyed, looted and occupied. Currently, more than 400 schools remain closed in the regions most severely affected by conflict.

## EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT

The Equitable Access to Quality Education for Children in Areas of Insecurity project supports the priorities of the government of Mali’s Plan for Sustainable Recovery to implement the 2015 Peace Agreement. It recognizes, despite ongoing conflict, that education cannot wait. This project promotes the right to equitable and inclusive access to quality education in safe, secure environments for children in hard to reach conflict-affected areas of five regions of Mali. The project provides access to quality and inclusive education opportunities through both school and community-based approaches such as advocacy for re-opening schools; awareness raising on the right to quality education; provision of tailored innovative learning programs such as radio-based distance programs and accelerated education programs; establishment of schools as zones of peace; provision of teaching, learning and recreational materials; improved emergency preparedness; teacher training to provide peace education and psychosocial support; and improved monitoring and evaluation for effective and efficient education service delivery.

### EQUITABLE ACCES TO EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN AREAS OF INSECURITY GOALS

**BUDGET:** \$4.9 million

**TARGET AREAS:** Segou, Mopti, Timbuktu, Taoudenni, Gao, Menaka, and Kidal Regions

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:** UNICEF

Over the 3-year (2015 – 2017) project cycle, expected results are:

- 100,000 girls and boys in the most conflict-affected communities have access to safe, protective, relevant and quality learning opportunities through return to schools, temporary schools or distance learning;
- 2,000 teachers identified and trained to implement accelerated learning curriculum and psychosocial response;
- 15,000 children enrolled in the accelerated learning program;
- Increased capacities of the education system at national and decentralized levels to better prepare, respond and coordinate education in emergencies, including developing decentralized education in emergency response plans