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USAID MALI PARTICIPATORY PEACE PROCESS – 3P

CONFLICT MEDIATION

USAID/Mali Participatory Peace Process (3P) project is implemented by the local NGO *Association Malienne pour la Survie au Sahel* (AMSS). The project will cover two circles of the region of Timbuktu. In the immediate term, the project will work to strengthen the commune-level conflict mediation groups 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 focus on inter-/intra-ethnic divisions because of their pervasiveness in Timbuktu and their potential to ignite violent conflict in the region.

FROM CONFLICT TO COHENSION

The Participatory Peace Process project will support a peaceful and prosperous Mali through local peace processes. Through a people-to-people approach, it will focus on bringing inter-/intra-ethnic groups in Timbuktu and Goundam circles together for conflict mediation and resolution. Throughout the Timbuktu region, inter-/intra-ethnic divisions primarily occur among Kel Tamasheqs/Tuaregs, Arabs, and Berber/Moors; Somonos and Bozos; and Songhais on issues such as land, pastoral wells, and disputes between farmers and herders. Therefore, *Malienne pour la Survie au Sahel* will focus on bringing these groups together for face-to-face mediation. It will work with conflict mediation groups to build their capacity and make sure that woman and youth participate actively to increase community understanding of the importance of women and youth participation in conflict mediation. Before bringing conflicting groups together, these groups will first work with single-identity groups to foster their willingness to interact with opposing parties. To do this, mediation groups will emphasize the benefits of collaboration and the shared values and interests that increase disputants' common ground. This approach will allow AMSS and other stakeholders to:

- Decrease violent conflict using participatory conflict mediation;
- Increase the capacity of local organizations working to make local peace processes more effective and inclusive; and
- Increase community resilience to support conflict prevention and social cohesion.

PARTICIPATORY PEACE PROCESS GOALS

Over the \$817,000, 2-year (2016-2018) project cycle, 3P will:

- Increase percentage of women and youth who are confident in their ability to employ nonviolent conflict mediation techniques practices and build their livelihoods;
- Reduce inter/intra ethnic and community violence;
- Increase AMSS operational capacity;
- Increase capacity to effectively mitigate against conflicts in the pilot community.