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USAID MALI PEACE INITIATIVE (ACCORD)

RECONCILIATION THROUGH RESILIENCE

Given the fragile nature of the Malian state and the need to implement and show tangible results with the 2015 Algiers Peace Accord, USAID anticipates quick impact activities that respond to community needs through tangible development investments and that challenge the worldview of individuals susceptible to extremism. This activity will be implemented through the issuance of small grants to reduce the isolation of targeted communities and increase the legitimacy of both local and central Malian government institutions through meaningful civic engagement, and to strengthen the resilience of at-risk groups against violent extremism.

The Mali Peace Initiative (ACCORD) activity works to strengthen targeted communities' resilience to conflict and radicalization by working with Malian Government and local communities 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 conflict and violent extremism. The focus of this program will start in northern Gao, with flexibility to expand, pending resource availability. This program builds upon a 3-year, \$22 million, Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) program that operated across the North which concluded in March 2016.

PARTNERING WITH GOVERNMENT

ACCORD contributes directly to the USAID Mali Development Objective 2: Resilience, and complements activities under the Development Objective 1: Democratic Governance.

The ACCORD activity assists local governments to work with their communities to identify key needs and design activities through a process that will build resilience. It seeks to provide tangible benefits to populations, particularly youth, at risk for recruitment by violent extremist organizations and communities in at-risk regions through youth employment and outreach programs, vocational skills training, and community development and media activities. Lastly, the program aims to strengthen women's and youth participation in conflict prevention, decision-making, and peace building, improve their access to resources, and reduce their vulnerability to conflict, violence, and trafficking.

ACCORD'S EXPECTED RESULTS

The 2-year (2016 – 2018), \$13.6 million project aims to:

- Deliver tangible peace dividends through community-driven activities to enhance support for reconciliation efforts and the legitimacy of the Government of Mali;
- Encourage social reconciliation and small-scale economic resilience efforts and participation in peacebuilding;
- Increase engagements of previously isolated communities with their neighbors and local government officials;
- Strengthen local women and youth focused civil society organizations.