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ADVANCED RECONCILIATION AND PROMOTING PEACE

USAID/Mali’s Advanced Reconciliation and Promoting Peace (ARPP) aims to secure a peaceful future for Malians by advancing the peace process, promoting reconciliation, and reducing youth violence and involvement in armed groups. In collaboration with local partners – Coordination of Women’s Associations and NGOs of Mali, Association for Youth and Development of Mali, and Mercy Corps – USAID will work towards this goal in the region of Gao and Timbuktu, targeting the administrative circles of Gao, Ansongo, Menaka, and Timbuktu. These areas of intervention were targeted as a significant proportion of the population is skeptical of the peace process, numerous conflicts exist within and between ethnic communities, youth remain vulnerable to participation in armed groups, and local women’s and youth advocacy remain a presence.

CHANGING ATTITUDES FOR PEACE

The program will employ a people-to-people approach to bring together groups to improve relationships and advance reconciliation across many lines and levels of division. ARPP will strategically bring groups together at different levels using varied mechanisms of the agreement. The approach is based on two key principles: 1) changing attitudes among more people across ethnic groups in villages and communes; and 2) engaging key people on how the peace process is implemented. The ARPP will work in the northern Gao and Timbuktu regions through three interlinked objectives:

- Objective 1: Empower community leaders to advance the peace process;
- Objective 2: Support traditional, elected, and religious leaders to reduce violence and promote reconciliation within and between ethnic communities;
- Objective 3: Reduce youth involvement in violence and armed groups.

These objectives are based on the theory of change that if community leaders educate diverse communities about the peace process while helping institutions become responsive to community concerns, then popular support for the peace process will increase. Local leaders will be trained to mediate disputes, develop Early Warning Response Systems, and create opportunities to resolve tensions, prevent escalation of disputes, and promote stability. Lastly, ARPP will increase youth engagement in their communities and expand their access to positive social networks.

ADVANCED RECONCILIATION AND PROMOTING PEACE PROJECT GOALS

Budget: \$1,143,670
Project Cycle: 2016 – 2018

Over the 2-year project cycle, Advanced Reconciliation and Promoting Peace project will:

- Establish 20 inter-ethnic women peace committees to promote the peace process;
- Establish EWER system in 20 communes for local security Advisory Committee to identify inter- and intra-ethnic community conflicts;
- 100 inter-ethnic sport clubs created to engage at-risk youth (ages 15-24).