

Support for Stabilisation and Peace in Mali

An inclusive peace process and tangible peace dividends strengthen the trust between the population and the state, which leads to the stabilisation of the country.

Challenges

Since the political crisis and coup in 2012, Mali has not been at peace: the ongoing insecurity and two further military coups since 2020 are evidence of profound instability. The peace agreement signed in 2015, which was supposed to lay the foundations for reconciliation, stability and peace, is under pressure and being implemented rather slowly. Security and the rule of law can hardly be guaranteed in large parts of the country, and there are repeated attacks on the civilian population. Lack of sources of income and basic social services are hindering the socio-economic development of the country. This has largely led to a deep breach of trust between the population and the political elite. Economic, political and social inequalities favour recruitment efforts by armed groups and make it difficult for women to participate in the peace process. The space for civil society discourse is increasingly limited and characterised by misinformation. The elections scheduled for 2024 will be decisive for the return from a military transition to a civilian government.

Approach

The German Federal Foreign Office has been supporting Mali's stabilisation and peace process since 2013. The project "Support for Stabilisation and Peace in Mali" (PASP) accompanies the Ministry of National Reconciliation and its decentralised structures in publicising the peace agreement and sustainable conflict management. The Malian Truth Commission was supported in promoting reconciliation within society until the end of its mandate in December 2022. Through the implementation of micro-projects, tangible peace benefits are created for the population. The participation of civilian state actors in stabilisation measures at national, regional and local level creates trust between the population and the state and opens up spaces for political processes. A targeted focus on women enables their participation in the peace process and promotes their access to resources and representation.

Institutional advice: In close coordination with the German Embassy in Bamako, the project supports Mali's civilian state actors in the dissemination of the peace agreement and sustainable conflict management in order to improve their performance vis-à-vis the population and strengthen trust between the population and the state. Women and marginalised groups (youths) are targeted

to strengthen their representation, resources and rights. In order to counter patriarchal structures, boys and men as well as the civilian population are explicitly included in gender-transformative activities such as dialogue and awareness-raising formats that, among other things, emphasise the importance of women's participation in the peace process or deal with positive images of masculinity.

Stabilisation through micro-projects: In the northern regions of Mali, the project promotes the implementation of micro-projects. In participatory civil dialogues, which focus on the engagement of women, youths and internally displaced persons, the communities talk about their local conflict situation and needs and identify stabilising measures. The construction of infrastructure (e.g. water supply and youth centres) in combination with income-generating activities (e.g. waste management and taxi companies) contributes to improving living conditions and social cohesion. In addition, measures against misinformation for youths in particular are promoted through micro-projects in order to increase their knowledge in recognising and counteracting destabilising *fake news* and this contribute to a more peaceful coexistence.



Project name	Support for Stabilisation and Peace in Mali
Donor	German Federal Foreign Office (AA)
Implementation organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Mali
Political institution	Malian Ministry of National Reconciliation
Duration	11/2016 – 05/2024
Financial volume	36.442.500 EUR



Photos from left to right:

Residents of Gabero during the inauguration of the community water supply system, 2018©PASP/GIZ

4th CVJR public hearing on "Violation of the right to liberty", "Violation of the right to life and physical integrity" and "Forced displacement", 2021©PASP/GIZ

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*Photos from left to right:
Training of women from ERAR, MARN and civil society
in Bamako, 2021©PASP/GIZ*

*Handover of a motorised tricycle to the FORC-G in Gao
for local transport, 2021©PASP/GIZ*



Impact in numbers...

- **160 officials** of the Ministry of National Reconciliation (including 79 women), including its decentralised reconciliation teams, have been trained in alternative conflict management methods.
- **11 regional and 39 community reconciliation teams** have received training on topics such as "mediation, prevention and conflict management techniques" and "non-violent communication and leadership", with a total of 535 people participating.
- In the regions of Gao, Menaka, Timbuktu, Menaka, Kidal and Taoudéni, **115 small-scale projects** have been implemented. The living conditions of around **702,153** people have been improved and around **903** jobs have been created.
- **139 dialogue measures** for crisis prevention have been carried out throughout Mali, around **14,583** people actively participated (21% of them women).
- **50 members** of the Truth Commission have received training in interview techniques and psycho-social support for traumatised people.
- More than **31,000** testimonies of victims of human rights violations have been documented in the six regional offices of the Truth Commissions. The latter were established with the support of the project.
- The Malian Truth Commission has developed a **reparations policy** and a **remembrance strategy** in a participatory process. The reparations policy was adopted by the cabinet of the Malian government.
- **Five public hearings** have been organised by the Truth Commission so far, with 51 women and men testifying publicly about human rights violations.

... and in stories

Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable groups by supporting income-generating activities and enabling socio-economic stability

One of the cities most affected by insecurity and terrorist threats is Gao in northern Mali. Many young people here are left to fend for themselves; jobs are few and far between. Armed groups are present in the region and provide income opportunities for young people. This makes the latter particularly vulnerable to the recruitment efforts of these groups.

With the support of the project, young people have been offered an alternative. To improve urban transport, the youth organisation FORC-G received ten moto-tricycles, which they can use as taxis and thus generate additional income. This increases their resilience while providing them with socio-economic stability.

A FORC-G member explains: "The tricycle project is the best thing that could have happened to me. I have not had permanent job so far, but I also have to take care of my family. In 2013, when the state returned to Gao, we were all promised jobs through the DDR¹ process, either in the army or through independent income-generating activities. Since then, however, nothing has happened. There were moments when I thought about joining the armed jihadist groups to support myself and my family. With them, you get a fixed salary of 100,000-200,000 CFA² per month for little work. But thanks to the PASP's support for German cooperation for our youth organisation, I have given up this idea. I am one of the drivers and now, thanks to the daily income, I am no longer dependent on anyone. We thank the project for giving us the opportunity to work in a dignified and responsible way."

¹ Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration

² About 150-300 euros

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