

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 being implemented rather slowly. Security and the rule of law can hardly be guaranteed in large parts of the country, and there are repeated violent clashes and attacks on the civilian population. State actors are reluctant to return to the remote parts of the country. In many regions, a state presence has to be established from scratch. A lack of income and basic social services are hindering the socio-economic development of the country. This has led to a deep breach of trust between the population and the state, which is further exacerbated by corruption and nepotistic structures. Economic, political and social inequalities favour radicalisation tendencies and make it particularly difficult for women to participate in the peace process.

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 (MRN), its decentralised structures and the Commission for Truth, Justice and Reconciliation (CVJR) in the dissemination of the peace treaty, sustainable conflict management and the promotion of reconciliation within society. 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, opens up spaces for political processes and promotes a return and establishment of the state in the target regions. A targeted focus on women within the framework of a transformative gender approach enables their participation in the implementation of the peace agreement and in conflict resolution mechanisms and counteracts patriarchal structures.

Institutional advice: 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. In addition, the project supports the Malian Truth Commission in dealing with serious human rights violations, in drafting and passing a reparations law for the victims of the crises in Mali, and in developing recommendations for long-term reconciliation within society.

Stabilisation through micro-projects: In the northern regions of Mali, the project promotes the implementation of micro-projects. Within the framework of participatory civil dialogues, the communities talk about their situation and needs and identify measures to stabilise them. 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 line with the integrated approach, the project works closely with the German Federal Armed Forces contingent of the MINUSMA mission in identifying and implementing the micro-projects.



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	32.642.500 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

Philip Kusch
Project leader
philip.kusch@giz.de

*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...

- **101 officials** of the Ministry of National Reconciliation (including 20 women), including its decentralised reconciliation teams, have been trained in alternative conflict management methods.
- **59 women** from ERAR, MARN and civil society have received training on topics such as "mediation, prevention and conflict management techniques" and "non-violent communication and leadership" as part of the project to strengthen women's participation in the peace process.
- In the regions of Gao, Menaka, Kidal and Taoudéni, **93 small-scale projects** have been implemented. The living conditions of around **628,506** people have been improved and around **815 jobs** have been created.
- **103 dialogue measures** for crisis prevention have been carried out throughout Mali, around **12,473** people actively participated (20% of them women).
- **50 members** of the Truth Commission have received training in interview techniques and psycho-social support for traumatised people.
- More than **26,000** 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.
- **4 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. Jihadist groups are present in the region and provide income opportunities for young people. This makes the latter particularly susceptible to radicalisation tendencies.

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 am a family breadwinner and had no permanent job. 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, from which our youth organisation has benefited, 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 and can provide for myself and my family. We thank GIZ for giving us the opportunity to re-enter the workforce in a dignified and responsible way."

¹ Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration

² About 150-300 euros

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices: Dag-Hammarskjöld Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn
Deutschland
Telefon: +49 (0)6196 79-1175
Fax: +49 (0)6196 79-1115

Authors: Lea Seefeld, Philip Kusch

Layout: GIZ

As per: May 2022

The GIZ is responsible for the content of this presentation.

In cooperation with: Ministry for Reconciliation, Peace and national cohesion

Commissioned by: Auswärtiges Amt (AA)

Postal address of AA: AA Berlin AA Bonn

Werderscher Markt 1 Adenauerallee 99-103
D-10117 Berlin D-53113 Bonn
T: +49 (0) 30 18170 T +49 (0) 22899 17-0