



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MALI TRANSITION INITIATIVE (MTI) QUARTERLY REPORT

PROJECT YEAR 2 AND FISCAL YEAR 2015, 3RD QUARTER
APRIL 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2015

July 2015

This report was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by AECOM's MTI Team in Mali and the MTI PMU in Arlington, Virginia.

MALI TRANSITION INITIATIVE (MTI)

QUARTERLY REPORT

Report Type:

Quarterly Report - SWIFT III IQC Award No. DOT-I-00-08-00050-00, AID-OAA-TO-13-00028

Period Ending:

June 30, 2015

Prepared:

July 2015

Prepared for:

United States Agency for International Development, Office of Transition Initiatives

Prepared by:

AECOM International Development
2101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22201

DISCLAIMER: This report was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by AECOM's MTI Team in Mali and the MTI PMU in Arlington, Virginia. The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms and Abbreviations	III
Executive Summary	1
Country Situation & Political Updates	1
Budget Information	1
Program Highlights, Achievements & Major Activities.....	1
Activity Appraisal & Upcoming and Ongoing Activities	2
Objective 1: Increasing the Supply and Demand for a Peaceful Resolution to the Conflict	2
Objective 2: Restoring a Sense Of Normalcy in Strategic Areas in the North	2
Objective 3: Countering Violent Extremism Through Inclusion of Marginalized Communities	3
Planned Activities.....	3
Security	4
Staff Movement	4
Operations and Administration.....	4
Annex A: Activities Cleared by Country Objective.....	5
Annex C: Success Stories.....	8

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A&E	Architectural and Engineering
AQIM	Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
AU	African Union
COP	Chief of Party (AECOM)
CR	Country Representative (OTI)
DDGS	Direct Distribution of Goods and Services
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EM	Engagement Manager
GATIA	Groupe autodéfense touareg Imghad et alliés
GNI	Global News Intelligence
GUC	Grant Under Contract
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali <i>Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation au Mali</i>
MNLA	National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad <i>Mouvement National pour la Libération de l'Azawad</i>
MTI	Mali Transition Initiative
MUJAO	Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa <i>Mouvement pour l'unicité et le Jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest</i>
NAG	Northern armed groups
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
PAT-Mali	<i>Programme d'Appui à la Transition du Mali</i>
PMU	Program Management Unit
RPM	Regional Program Manager
SFAM	Senior Finance and Administration Manager
SOM	Senior Operations Manager
SOW	Scope of Work
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
TAP	Transition Activities Pool
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the Mali Transition Initiative (MTI), also known as PAT-Mali, in June of 2013. During the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2015, MTI continued to work with civil society and the Malian government to promote the peace process.

The Program implemented activities that helped disseminate information regarding the peace agreement, notably a large peace caravan by the Ministry of National Reconciliation. Despite an uptake in violent clashes between armed groups throughout Timbuktu and Gao Regions, several infrastructure projects were completed, notably the restoration of municipal water access in the towns of Gossi and NTahaka.

COUNTRY SITUATION & POLITICAL UPDATES

On June 20th 2015, Mali put an end to three years of conflict, after the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA), the coalition of the main rebel groups, signed in Bamako a Peace and Reconciliation Agreement with the Malian Government. This signature was achieved more than three months after the Agreement was initially presented to the parties by the international mediation team in Algiers on March 1st. It represents the culmination of a negotiation process which first began in Ouagadougou in June 2013, and which necessitated six major rounds of negotiations in Algiers, as well as three ceasefire agreements.

This is a considerable achievement given the resurging tensions Mali experienced during the quarter. On April 28th, the pro-Mali armed group GATIA seized the town of Menaka from the CMA, in full breach of the existing ceasefire. This attack prompted several retaliatory attacks by the CMA throughout northern Mali, including in the towns of Lere, Dire and Goundam. In the midst of these rising tensions, the Malian Government organized a first grandiose signature ceremony of the Peace Agreement in Bamako on May 15th, with several heads of state in attendance. While the international mediation team, the Malian government and the pro-Mali armed groups formally signed the document, the CMA remained absent. Following this ceremony, Algeria led further discussions with all parties to the peace process in order to resolve the Menaka situation and get the rebel groups to put pen to paper. Finally, on June 5th, 2015, a new ceasefire agreement was signed between the Government and rebel groups, and their leaders announced their intention to sign the peace deal in Bamako on June 20th, 2015.

BUDGET INFORMATION

December-14	Amount Approved	Amount Spent To Date	Balance
Operations (Including TAP Fees)	\$10,800,000.00	\$9,060,176.17	\$1,739,823.83
TAP	\$10,550,000.00	\$7,186,003.32	\$3,363,996.68
Total	\$21,350,000.00	\$16,246,179.49	\$5,103,820.51
Percentage Operations	51%	56%	16%
Percentage Activities	49%	44%	32%

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

During the quarter, the program continued to focus primarily on promoting the peace process. As the month of April began, the main rebel groups were still refusing to sign the Peace Agreement, which remained the last outstanding piece in Mali's political transition. The Senior Management Team (SMT) decided that the program would focus its remaining time and resources on direct support to advancing the peace process, specifically – towards achieving a signed peace accord by all parties to the conflict.

On April 15th-16th, the program held a Rolling Assessment (RA) in Bamako, with teams from Gao and Timbuktu office in attendance. The RA’s analytical discussion was guided by the question, “How can PAT-Mali generate and maintain pressure on actors to sign the peace accord?” The discussion focused on opportunities and challenges, and PAT-Mali’s ability to leverage or address them. Having the RA in Bamako allowed the PAT-Mali team to hear directly from the Mission Director (who opened the event) and the Chargé d’Affaires (who closed it) regarding the role of PAT-Mali’s work in advancing development priorities and US policy. The RA allowed PAT-Mali to identify avenues of action and teams were given homework of developing concrete activity ideas over the course of the following week.

ACTIVITY APPRAISAL & UPCOMING AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

MTI cleared 20 activities valued at \$533,139.71 during the April to June 2015 period, broken down by objective in the below table. A total of 196 activities worth **\$9,536,401** in Transition Activities Pool (TAP) funds have been committed from the inception of the program through June 2015.

OBJECTIVE	NUMBER	AMOUNT USD
To counter violent extremism through inclusion of marginalized communities	6	\$323,364.00
To increase the supply and demand for a peaceful resolution to the conflict	13	\$179,775.71
To restore a sense of normalcy in strategic areas in the North	1	\$30,000.00
Total	20	\$533,139.71

FUNDING SOURCE	NUMBER	EST ACTIVITY AMOUNT USD	DISBURSEMENTS
CCF	0	0	\$0
DA	3	\$81,651.00	\$12,983.04
ES OCO	6	\$323,364.00	\$1,461.81
TI	11	\$128,124.71	\$90,365.89
Total	20	\$533,139.71	\$104,810.74

As of June 30th, the total funding available for program activities in the task order is **\$10,550,000**, out of which **\$9,536,401** is already committed. The commitment of the remaining funds, **\$1,013,599**, by the end of calendar year 2015 requires the program to generate approximately **\$168,933** in new activities per month, which is on par with the average monthly commitment in the third quarter.

OBJECTIVE 1: INCREASING THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT

As part of its collaboration with the Ministry of National Reconciliation, the program supported a caravan that travelled in 14 locations throughout Southern Mali over a period of 15 days, to explain and promote the peace agreement (MTI203). The Ministry experienced a challenge in obtaining the full support of local authorities but overall the caravan was very well received by the population and well covered by the media.

The program continued to print and distribute copies of the Peace Agreement to the Malian government, civil society groups and the UN Mission (MTI162). On the eve of the signature of the peace agreement by the CMA, the program supported civil society groups who held candlelight vigils for peace in Bamako (MTI241) and Timbuktu (MTI235).

OBJECTIVE 2: RESTORING A SENSE OF NORMALCY IN STRATEGIC AREAS IN THE NORTH

During the quarter MTI completed several infrastructure projects aimed at restoring a sense of normalcy in the north, including the repair of the Ansongo Ferry (MTI182), the Harber Maiga

Cultural Center in Niafunke (MTI070/MTI201) as well as the rehabilitation of the municipal water supply systems in Gossi (MTI178) and NTahaka (MTI157). The program's signature infrastructure activity in Gao Region, the rehabilitation of Gao Town's Independence Plaza, officially started on June 1st, and remains on schedule for completion at the end of August 2015.

On June 13th MTI facilitated a meeting of community leaders in the commune of Bourra, located in Ansongo Cercle, Gao Region (MTI199). Traditional village chiefs, municipal councilors, civil society organizations as well as state authorities gathered for one day to discuss the degrading security situation. Several leaders denounced a perceived climate of impunity and called on the state to protect the population and deliver justice.

OBJECTIVE 3: COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM THROUGH INCLUSION OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

As part of its sustained engagement in Gounzoureye Commune aimed at reducing the attraction of violent extremism, the program continued to develop the commune's network of traditional leaders (MTI154), holding commune-wide meetings and festivities in three villages.

At the end of May, the program conducted a seven-day training course on gardening techniques for 80 women of Kadji-Darsalam, as part of the creation of an irrigated garden on the Darsalam Island (MTI150). This was the first time the women of Darsalam had access to such a training, and expressed the desire to travel outside the community to gain further training and experience. The program explored the idea of conducting trainings and trips for women outside the community (for example, to the Timbuktu Peace Garden), but faced refusal by the village leader and elders. Nevertheless, MTI continued to create avenues to openly promote moderate ideas as an alternative to the ultra-conservative Wahhabi discourse which dominates public and private life in Gounzoureye Commune. In June, the community of Darsalam accepted to let the women participate in a cash-for-work activity (MTI239), where 100 female participants will build a meeting place for women using local materials, and receive a mobile phone and their income through mobile money.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

In the next quarter, MTI will support the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. Staff in Timbuktu and Gao have begun discussions with the UN Mission and civil society partners to explore programming options in areas occupied by the CMA, such as Ber (60 km east of Timbuktu Town), Menaka (300 km east of Gao town), and Kidal town. The signature of the Peace Agreement by the CMA is very recent and all parties remain cautious, as implementation mechanisms, notably the demobilization of armed combatants, remain unclear. Nevertheless, MTI sees an opportunity to provide peace dividends to the population of occupied areas by restoring basic services and building trust between communities.

After the month of Ramadan (mid-July), the program is scheduled to resume a Caravan with the Ministry of National Reconciliation, this time traveling with a broad delegation in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao and possibly Kidal to explain the contents of the Peace Agreement. MTI will also work at the commune-level to provide village chiefs, imams and mayors of Timbuktu and Gao Regions with a better understanding of the Peace Agreement (MTI243 and MTI248), as it is intended to significantly change the local and regional administration and security arrangements.

In the next quarter the program should also complete most of its outstanding construction activities, including the rehabilitation of Timbuktu High School (MTI060) and Gao Independence Plaza (MTI151), the construction of water and electricity distribution systems at Douentza High School (MTI027), and the equipment upgrade to radio stations in Dire (MTI205), Goundam (MTI204), Gossi (MTI183) and Ansongo (MTI180).

SECURITY

Despite the progress in the peace process, jihadist groups continue to carry out attacks against Malian armed forces as well as the UN Mission (MINUSMA). In June, jihadists carried out an attack against the town of Nara in Segou Region (central Mali), as well as the villages of Misseni and Fakola in Sikasso Region (southern Mali), demonstrating their capacity to carry out attacks throughout the national territory. These attacks have been linked both the AQMI, as well as Ansar Dine, the homegrown jihadist organization led by former Tuareg rebellion leader Iyad Ag-Ghaly.

STAFF MOVEMENT

- Timbuktu and Gao field offices the week of April 13th to allow staff members travel to Bamako and attend the Rolling Assessment.
- RPM Michael Kauder left the program on May 29th and Senior Finance and Administrative Manager (SFAM) Alpha Koroma on June 12th 2015.
- Operations Manager Raven Smith left Mali for personal leave on June 10th 2015. She is scheduled to resume work on July 7th.
- AECOM PMU's Engagement Manager Flor Rivera travelled to Mali from June 9th to 30th, to provide surge support to the procurement and finance teams.
- OTI Deputy Country Representative Jessica Bryant was on leave from May 29th to June 19th.
- OTI Country Representative Joel Hirst left Mali for personal leave on June 19th, 2015. He is scheduled to resume work on July 10th.
- During the quarter, COP Olivier Girard travelled to Timbuktu from April 8th to 10th, May 11th to 22nd as well as June 29th to July 2nd. During this last trip he supported the visit of US Ambassador Folmsbee.

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

REORGANISATION OF THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

During the quarter, Timbuktu RPM Michael Kauder and SFAM Alpha Koroma announced their decision to leave the MTI program. Due to the fact that the program is scheduled for close-out by March 31st 2015, and in consultation with OTI, AECOM decided not to seek replacements for these two positions. RPM Alejandro Carnero will assume the leadership of both the Timbuktu and Gao field offices. The local Finance and Accounting Manager Jean-Pierre Diallo, who has been with the program since the Mali Regional Option program in 2013, was promoted and will assume overall leadership of the finance department and report to the COP.

CONTINUING STAFF CAPACITY REINFORCEMENT IN PROCUREMENT RULES AND PROCEDURES

In June 2015 PMU Engagement Manager Flor Rivera conducted a two-day refresher training session in Bamako for procurement & logistics staff on rules and procedures regarding acquisitions of goods and services, as well as roles and responsibilities. RPM Alejandro Carnero and COP attended this training, which participants found useful as a forum to raise questions and concerns. The EM and COP also began an in-depth review of MTI's Procurement Manual, in order to better align it to current practices, particularly the use of AECOM's online procurement management system OneSource. Senior management team intends to continue providing short and targeted refresher training sessions to procurement staff members on a periodic basis.

ANNEX A: ACTIVITIES CLEARED BY COUNTRY OBJECTIVE

ACTIVITY NUMBER	ACTIVITY TITLE	AWARDEE	EST ACTIVITY AMOUNT USD	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE
Increasing the supply and demand for a peaceful resolution to the conflict						
MTI222	Rally in N'Tillit in Support for the Algiers Peace Process	Conseil de la jeunesse pour Ntillit	\$17,028.15	Closed	4/1/2015	4/10/2015
MTI223	Rally in Gossi in Support for the Algiers Peace Process	Conseil Communal des Jeunes de Gossi	\$6,766.36	Closed	3/31/2015	4/10/2015
MTI224	Increasing Student Support for the Algiers Peace Process	Ministere de l Enseignement Superieur et de la Recherche Scientifique	\$9,657.35	Closed	4/23/2015	5/8/2015
MTI225	Civil Society Discussion on Peace Agreement with Minister of Foreign Affairs	JCI Bamako Elite	\$3,550	Cleared	4/24/2015	7/15/2015
MTI227	Caravan and Rally in Gao in Support for the Algiers Peace Process	Conseil Regional des Jeunes de Gao / Woman Leaders Association	\$19,327	Cleared	4/27/2015	7/30/2015
MTI228	Rally in Tessit in Support for the Algiers Peace Process	Conseil Communal des Jeunes de Tessit	\$11,927.71	Closed	4/24/2015	5/15/2015
MTI233	Civil Society Organizations calling for an immediate ceasefire	DDGS - Civil society organizations	\$2,124.14	Cleared	5/28/2015	6/30/2015
MTI235	Civil Society Candlelight Vigil in Support of the Peace Process in Timbuktu	Timbuktu Regional Youth Council	\$1,680	Cleared	6/17/2015	6/20/2015
MTI238	Caravan and Rally in Support for the Peace Process in Timbuktu Town	Conseil Regional de la Societe Civile de Tombouctou	\$14,194	Cleared	6/13/2015	6/13/2015
MTI240	Increasing Women Support for the Algiers Peace Process in Timbuktu	Coordination des Associations et ONG Féminines du Mali	\$6,374	Cleared	6/12/2015	6/16/2015
MTI241	Civil Society Candlelight Vigil in Support of the Peace Process in Bamako	JCI	\$19,690	Cleared	6/15/2015	6/20/2015
MTI243	Promoting the Peace Agreement in Timbuktu Region at the village level	Groupe d' Action pour Barrer la Voie a l' Injustice	\$65,411	Cleared	6/29/2015	9/30/2015
MTI244	Connecting Grass-Roots Leaders with Policymakers	DDGS	\$2,046	Cleared	6/26/2015	7/6/2015
Total			\$179,775.71	13		
Restoring a sense of normalcy in strategic areas in the North						
MTI184	Production of Timbuktu Renaissance Short Film	DDGS - Timbuktu Renaissance Action Group	\$30,000	Cleared	4/10/2015	8/31/2015
Total			\$30,000	1		

Countering violent extremism through inclusion of marginalized communities						
MTI194	Promoting social cohesion through Cash for work in Gounzoureye	Gounzoureye Rural Commune	\$78,515	Cleared	5/1/2015	8/31/2015
MTI230	Youth Community Center in Gounzoureye	Gounzoureye Rural Commune	\$90,852	Cleared	5/25/2015	12/31/2015
MTI231	Theater Competition for Young Women in Gounzoureye	Gounzoureye Rural Commune	\$55,816	Cleared	5/25/2015	10/31/2015
MTI232	Empowering Gounzoureye Women through Multifunctional Platforms	Gounzoureye Rural Commune	\$74,350	Cleared	6/1/2015	11/30/2015
MTI236	Participation of Zineb Benalla to a USIP Countering Violent Extremism Workshop	STTA Consultant Zineb Benalla	\$10,662	Cleared	6/5/2015	7/31/2015
MTI239	Empowering women of Kaji-Darsalam through cash-for-work	Dar-Al-Salaam Neighborhood in Kadji Village	\$13,169	Cleared	6/15/2015	7/31/2015
		Total	\$323,364	6		

ANNEX C: SUCCESS STORIES



TRANSFORMING LIVES – MALI

Increasing understanding and support for Mali's Peace

Accord: Community Engagement



*Local debate on the peace accord in Bamako
Photo by: Adama Diallo, Blogger
Ensemble Nous Sommes Un Peuple"*



*Peace Rally in Goundam
Photo by: MTI*

Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

On June 20, the Malian government and rebel groups took a historic step forward in achieving a durable peace by signing a peace agreement ending three years of conflict. Six rounds of negotiations in Algiers, three separate signed road-map or framework documents, two major resurgences of violence, and three cease-fires culminated in a ceremony attended by Mali's President and representatives of all major armed groups. MTI is proud to have played a key role in this process. Through more than 45 grants for nearly \$2 million, OTI partnered with hundreds of Malian civil society representatives, local authorities throughout the country, and the Ministry of National Reconciliation to implement a consistent campaign for peace which included a broad range of efforts.

Among those critical efforts were grass roots, community-based events where MTI and its partners engaged with Malian communities on the peace process and the content of the accord. In a series of 10 debates held in January 2015 in major population centers throughout Mali, OTI-sponsored female community leader-hosted discussions on the preliminary accord and the peace process. Conducted in local languages and in public spaces, the debates provided an opportunity for ordinary women to engage on the topic of peace.

Similarly, just days after the GOM initialed the peace accord on March 1, Jeune Chambre Internationale (JCI) organized a town hall on the accord which drew over 600 participants at the University of Bamako. JCI's 28 chapters continued this outreach with meetings in seven regions of Mali including Gao and Timbuktu.

Further empowering Malians to participate in the peace process, MTI supported eleven separate rallies throughout Timbuktu and Gao regions which were designed to put pressure on all parties to sign the peace agreement. The rallies, held in some of the towns hardest hit during the occupation, demonstrated widespread popular support for peace, as community members wore t-shirts saying "Gao is Mali!" and "CMA, Sign the Accord!" Hundreds of Malians participated in the events, thus undermining the rebels' narrative of popular support for their refusal to sign the peace accord.

Contact: Josh Litwin, jlitwin@usaid.gov and follow us on Twitter @USAIDOTI Web: www.usaid.gov keyword search: Political Transition