



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MALI

U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERFORMANCE PUBLICATION Fiscal Year 2009

FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

The Government of Mali (GOM) demonstrates a strong commitment to democracy, political tolerance, human rights, economic development, and responsible international engagement. However, institutions in Mali are still fragile, and the country remains at the bottom of the Human Development Index, primarily due to a lack of access to quality health care and education services. In addition, there are significant security challenges in the north of the country. United States Government (USG) assistance to Mali focuses on the following key goals: strengthening and consolidating Mali's institutions; helping Mali promote rapid, sustainable economic growth; addressing key health threats; supporting educational development; and ensuring Mali's continued cooperation in combating extremism through its participation in the Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership. In the democracy and governance sector, USG assistance aims to help consolidate Mali's decentralization process by fostering transparency and accountability, promoting peace and stability in the northern regions, and reinforcing local development by strengthening the capacity of civil society. In the health sector, USG assistance focuses on increasing maternal and child health (MCH), preventing malaria, and expanding access to family planning and reproductive health. In the education sector, USG assistance targets primary education and the establishment of a decentralized, accountable education system to ensure that the education needs of Mali's young people are better served. In the economic growth sector, USG assistance addresses agricultural productivity, environmental management, financial access, trade, and investment.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

The USG supported peace and security programs that assisted the Government of Mali in improving its operational and tactical capabilities to confront and respond to threats of terrorism. The training of Mali's security forces continues a long, incremental process of enhancing and sustaining Mali's capacity to take strong, effective, and decisive measures to eliminate terrorist networks and prevent terrorist attacks within Mali. Military equipment provided to the Government of Mali will directly assist in efforts to improve peace and security in the region.

Over \$5 million in non-lethal assistance (vehicles, uniforms, tactical radios, vehicle parts, etc.) is helping Malian military efforts to improve combat capabilities and build necessary capacity. Additional parts and supplies are en route to boost the Malian military logistics capabilities. In FY 2009, 10 Malian soldiers were trained with U.S. assistance, and Malian troops have attended programs promoting peace and security.

In FY 2009, Mali hosted 11 joint-combined and bilateral exercises throughout the country, most of which included a military medical or veterinary civic action program to assist locals. This U.S. military effort represents one of the highest numbers of events of this type in a single country on the continent.

Mali twice hosted the Military Intelligence Basic Officer Course for Africa program, which improves the understanding and cooperation of intelligence professionals throughout the region

The Department of Defense has supported an HIV/AIDS prevention program that gives the Malian military an increased awareness of how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS within and from the military population, and provides medical equipment and supplies to test patients for the disease as well as preventatives

The USG directly supported classroom instruction and provided equipment to the A.B. Beye Peacekeeping School in Bamako. This school provides tactical level peacekeeping training for soldiers based throughout Africa, promoting better understanding of demining operations, rule of law, and other vital subject areas.

Governing Justly and Democratically

USG democracy and governance assistance directly supports the GOM's efforts to transfer responsibilities and financial resources to the local level. Under the decentralization plan, the Malian legal framework calls for a significant shift in authority and financing, from the national to the local level; however, many communities in Mali do not yet have the skills and competencies to make programming decisions effectively and manage social service delivery. The Shared Governance program addresses this issue by providing practical, hands-on training to mayors, communal council members, and civil society organizations that enables them to design and manage the delivery of health, education, agricultural production, water, and other services to constituents. Communes assisted by the project have demonstrated an improvement in their ability to develop one- and five-year development plans and budgets for implementing those plans. The program also improves access to independent sources of professional and objective news and information also helps bolster a strong civil society and supports an accountable democratic system. In FY 2009, USG assistance contributed to media freedom in Mali through projects that:

- Supported an independent network of 240 private FM community radio stations, which cover 89 percent of Mali's population (approximately 10.7 million people), through the supply of equipment, training, and program content
- Trained 140 journalists in conflict prevention and resolution, messaging for development activities (HIV/AIDS awareness, improved agricultural techniques, etc.), good governance and decentralization, and news reporting. This training is raising the level of professionalism in the media, and ensures public access to more accurate and relevant information.
- Supported 178 media outlets with training and technical assistance in a variety of areas, particularly in financial sustainability, as well as conflict prevention and mitigation, peace

building, health and education topics, journalistic ethics, news reporting, decentralization and good governance, the role of civil society in a democratic environment, civic advocacy, and women's rights

In support of Mali's April 2009 municipal elections, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) implemented a program to enhance Malian women's participation in the electoral process. The program's specific objectives were to increase the number of women on party candidate lists and mobilize women to vote in upcoming municipal elections. Activities included raising awareness of the importance of women's political participation in Mali's local elections by organizing three panel discussions among civil society representatives and government officials in the Malian regions of Sikasso, Mopti, and Gao. These panel discussions were broadcast through a network of community radio stations in the run-up to the April 26 elections. In addition, 60 local radio stations participated in the voter education campaign and broadcast at least one weekly program targeted at women for around three months

Investing in People

Health

Mali has some of the greatest health challenges in the world, with a maternal mortality rate of 464 per 100,000 live births, a child mortality rate of 191 per 1,000 live births, and a total fertility rate of 6.6 births per woman. Although these and other health indicators have improved over the last five years, the context remains among the most challenging in the world. Whereas Mali's national HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is low by African standards (estimated at 1.3 percent in 2006), the prevalence in high-risk groups is an alarming 35 percent. USAID's strategic approach is to decrease significantly disease and death among children under five and women of reproductive age using proven best practices and high-impact services, and to maintain a low national prevalence rate for HIV/AIDS while seeking to reduce the prevalence in high-risk groups.

USG assistance has helped introduce active management of third stage of labor and essential newborn care were systematically across the country, and the number of mothers (235,000) and newborns benefitting from these life-saving interventions increased markedly. Over 5,000,000 doses of vitamin A were administered to children under five years old during two "nutritional weeks." Immunization coverage among children under one year of age is virtually universal, and 520,000 children were vaccinated with USG support. The prevention of diarrheal disease was enhanced through U.S. support to the National Hand Washing Day, community-based health education, and the launch of the socially marketed "Aquatab" point-of-use water treatment, which purified more than 19 million liters of water.

During FY 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted two major surveys to support epidemiological monitoring and quality control activities in the fight against HIV/AIDS. These surveys helped to improve the technical, financial, and managerial capabilities of the Ministry of Health at all decentralized levels. USAID-funded programs launched an accreditation system that improved the quality of primary health services by recognizing and certifying health services that meet quality standards. USAID continued to work with the GOM to implement a new family planning repositioning strategy that would increase access to and use of comprehensive family planning services.

With USAID support, the number of service outlets providing HIV counseling and testing increased to 331. USAID projects raised the awareness of religious and community leaders concerning HIV

prevention. A number of mass-media communication interventions promoting prevention through abstinence, faithfulness, and condoms were produced and aired.

FY 2009 marked the first full year of implementation of the President's Malaria Initiative in Mali. Early achievements included the free distribution of 600,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to pregnant women and children under five. In addition, 353,555 episodes of malaria were treated with an artemisinin-based malaria medication.

Education

After two decades of near stagnation in the 1970s and 1980s, Mali is currently on a better track to increasing education supply, which is essential to achieve the country's long-term social and economic goals. Since 1990, the gross enrolment rate has almost tripled, and provisional statistics from the Ministry of Education show that Mali continues to make progress. In 2009, the net enrollment rate at the primary level continued to increase from 60.9 percent to 62.1 percent (from 53.9 percent to 55.2 percent for girls). In addition, a total of 484 primary schools, 2,527 teachers, and 84,558 students (43,640 girls) were added to the education system. However, this has not been matched by comparable increases in the quality of education, and regional disparities and inequity of access for girls, rural students, and nomadic populations remain persistent problems. To address these issues, USG assistance:

- Supported the Ministry in implementing its 10-year education strategy and Education Sector Investment Program (PISE). The USG also worked with the Ministry and the education-donor coordination group to assess the second phase of the PISE program and to design PISE III. The focus of the latter includes the identification of effective interventions to improve quality basic education and setting realistic three-year targets.
- Developed a standards framework for students' performance in reading and writing for each primary grade. A teacher's guide for a balanced literacy approach was also designed and distributed to primary school teachers.
- Developed an interactive teacher-training program that was broadcast on national radio stations. In 2009, the USG developed a new radio program for level 1, and broadcast 60 30-minute radio programs for grade 4. Through this interactive radio program, the USG trained 7,406 teachers and improved the instruction of over 296,000 primary students.
- Created a program to advance Mali's decentralization efforts in the education sector. The USG worked with the Ministry to identify 75 target communes throughout the country (covering roughly 10 percent of the country's communes). The objective is to promote effective system management, information and resource flows, and decentralized education planning which can be replicated countrywide.
- Provided scholarships to 29,957 primary school children in the north (28,609 girls and 1,348 boys) under the Ambassadors' Girls' Scholarship Program. During the last year, scholarships for 7,511 additional primary school students (6,819 girls and 692 boys) were provided and will continue for another two years.

Economic Growth

USG support to Mali for economic growth centers on four key areas: enhanced agricultural productivity, improved natural resource management and biodiversity, increased trade and investment, and greater financial sector access. In FY 2009, USG assistance increased the

productivity of several key crops, with production increasing from 11,806 tons in FY 2008, to 25,537 tons in FY 2009, as a result of increased irrigation and technology transfer. The rehabilitation of irrigation canals recuperated close to 50 hectares of formerly abandoned rice fields, and 150 women were provided access to land for cultivation of rice and high-value crops like vegetables. With U.S. assistance, new sorghum and millet cultivars combined with agricultural practices, including water conservation, processing, and marketing technologies, were extended to 964 villages in rural Mali (compared to 500 the previous year), including new production zones in Mopti and Kayes regions; as a result yield increased from 1.2 tons to 2.0 tons per hectare in several of these target areas. U.S. assistance also facilitated:

- The production of approximately 114 tons of certified rice seeds
- Access to 42 tons of fertilizers from the GOM's Rice Initiative by a women farmers' group
- The development of a new version of the Livestock Market Information System (LMIS) software, including the purchase and establishment of the internet domain name (www.malibetail.net). The LMIS was expanded from 6 to 27 markets, giving coverage to all of Mali except the Sikasso region. Training on livestock fattening and feeding strategies and techniques was provided to 260 Malians, including 34 women.
- Capacity-building through short-term training of beneficiaries in agricultural enabling environment (733 men, 152 women), agricultural sector productivity (4,117 men, 1,554 women) and in natural resource management and biodiversity (1,557 men, 2,157 women)
- With a focus on shea nut trees (a protected plant and a popular, high-value ingredient in cosmetics, as well as a food source), improvement of 9,318 hectares of land, increasing the income of 117,500 people.
- Qualification of the Sourou floodplain as a Ramsar zone. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands. Meeting Ramsar criteria was documented as a result of a biodiversity inventory commissioned by USAID.
- Increased the sales of smallholders in targeted value chains (shallots, potatoes, tomatoes, mangos, and rice) by 141 percent in FY 2009 over the previous year. In addition, the value of intra-regional exports increased 63 percent.

After five years of collaboration among USAID, the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation, the Investment Promotion Agency was launched as a one-stop shop for business registration, information, and facilitation of the business environment in Mali. This significantly lessened the number of days (from 25 to 15) and the number of procedures (from 10 to 7) needed to establish a new business, as counted by the World Bank Doing Business Index. U.S. support also led to the establishment of three guarantee funds in local currency totaling about \$425,000, which will leverage \$850,000 in credit.