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Mali Peacebuilding, Stabilization and Reconciliation (Mali PSR)

Quarterly Report Q2 FY2021



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 5**
- II. BACKGROUND..... 7**
- III. CONTEXT 8**
- IV. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION..... 13**
 - Objective 1: Community Resilience to Violence and Conflict Reinforced..... 14
 - Objective 2: Inclusive Governance and Civic Engagement Strengthened in Conflict Affected Communities 19
 - Objective 3: Empowering Youth and Building their Resilience to Violent Extremism..... 25
 - Objective 4: Impact of COVID-19 and the Associated Second Order Effects on Malian Communities Mitigated 32
- V. CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES..... 36**
- VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION 37**
- VII. GRANTS 39**
- VIII. OPERATIONS 40**
- IX. SEQUENCING LAYERING AND INTEGRATION 40**
- X. SUBSEQUENT QUARTERS PLAN 41**
- ANNEX I : MAPPING OF STATE AND COMMUNITY STRUCTURES 43**
- ANNEX 2 : INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE THEMES..... 49**
- ANNEX 3: YOUTH CAFE THEMES 50**
- ANNEX 4: GRANTS IMPLEMENTED IN Q2 FY2021 51**
- ANNEX 5: M&E DATA VISUALIZATION 53**
- ANNEX 6: COMMUNE CLASSIFICATION 57**

ACRONYMS

ADR	Agences de Developpement Regional (Regional Development Agencies)
APEJ	Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment
AMSS	Association Malienne de la Survie au Sahel (Malian Association for Survival in the Sahel)
CAFO	Coordination des Associations et ONGs Féminines (Coordination of Women's Associations and NGOs)
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CC	Community Coordinator
CEC	Community Engagement Committee
CEP	Civic Engagement Program
CMA	Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad (Coordination of Azawad Movements)
CMM	Conflict Management and Mitigation
CNAP	Centre National d'Alerte Precoce (National Early Warning Center)
CNIECS	Centre National pour l'Information, l'Education et la Communication en Sante (National Center for Health Information, Education and Communication)
<u>COFO</u>	Commission Foncière (Land commission)
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CPDHA	Center for the Promotion of Human Rights and Development in Africa
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DQA	Data Quality assessment
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECOWARN	Economic Community of West African States Response Network
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
FAMa	Forces Armées Maliennes (Mali National Army)
FRAMe®	Fragility and Resilience Assessment Methodology
FFP	Fund for Peace
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GOM	Government of Mali
GRADCOM	<i>Groupe de Recherche Action pour le Développement Communautaire</i>
ICAF	Integrated Conflict Analysis Framework
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IE	Impact Evaluation
ISGS	Islamic State in the Greater Sahara
JNIM	Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin
M&E	Monitoring and Evalufation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MINUSMA	UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MJP	Mali Justice Project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
Mali PSR	Mali Peacebuilding, Stabilization and Reconciliation Program
PDSEC	Plan de Développement Économique, Social et Culturel (Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan)
P/CVE	Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism

PEA	Political Economy Analysis
REWARD	Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa Program
SLI	Sequencing, Layering and Integration
SNA	Stakeholder Network Analysis
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
UN	United Nations
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	US Government
TDRL	Taxe de Développement Régional et Local (regional and local development tax)
VE	Violent Extremism

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Agency for International Development’s Peacebuilding, Stabilization and Reconciliation program (herein referred to as Mali PSR or the program) made strong progress this quarter to accelerate conflict prevention and mitigation through the development of a strategy for an Early Warning and Early Response system (EWER), and to support to youth-driven community efforts such as youth cafes, intergenerational dialogues, and detecting and verifying mis/disinformation online.

In this second quarter of FY2021, Mali PSR implemented a series of activities that continue to foster social cohesion and trust, prevent and mitigate conflict, fight against violent extremism, and promote inclusive participation and collective action through the development and actualization of the *Plans de Developpement, Economique, Social et Culturel* (PDSECs), and in the prevention of and fight against COVID-19. Mali PSR broke new ground in building local leader’s capacity by convening a virtual exchange between Creative’s Director, Democracy, Governance and Electoral Integrity and the Directors of seven Regional Development Agencies (ADRs) on “Solutions Based Service Delivery.”

This quarter’s report highlights both programmatic interventions completed by Mali PSR and the key outcomes and results achieved during the second quarter of fiscal year 2021 (January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021).

Objective I. Mali PSR contracted with program partner Fund for Peace (FFP) to provide technical assistance to pilot Early Warning Early Response systems in 10 partner communes. The key activities towards the advancement of establishing the EWER system were 1) the development of a draft EWER strategy that will guide the design and piloting of Early Warning and Early Response mechanisms; and 2) a Social Network Analysis (SNA) mapping exercise to assess the organizational connectivity of local organizations within those communes so that the system builds on existing network capacity and strengthens local response frameworks. Ten focal points from the ten pilot communes were identified during the SNA mapping. The focal points are the key actors who will be responsible for collecting information and sending alerts to the relevant response actors. During the quarter, Mali PSR conducted trainings in the communes of Bourem Inaly, Soboundou and Timbuktu on the Pastoral Charter and the Agricultural Orientation Law which is critical component towards preventing and mitigating natural resource conflicts. Joint meetings were also held during the quarter with the USAID/Civic Engagement Project (CEP) to discuss increasing participatory governance, and with the Mali Justice Project to improve access to justice. The program undertook a review and mapping of state services and community structures to identify where victims of violence and trauma are able to access counseling services, referrals, and care.

Objective I Key Activities

- Development of an Early Warning Early Response strategy.
- 2 exchanges between Mali PSR and CEP grantees on finding solutions to participatory governance.
- 3 Trainings on Pastoral Charter and Agricultural Orientation Law
- Mapping of state services and community structures to victims of trauma.

Objective 2. Mali PSR have forged alliances with the Regional Development Agencies in promoting citizen’s participation during the development and drafting of *Plans de Développement Social, Economique et Culturel* (PDSECS). During the quarter, Mali PSR implemented activities to advance the process of six (6) PDSECS in Mopti, Youwarou, Gao, Soni Ali Ber, Bourem and Bamban. On February 23, a virtual learning exchange was organized for the Agences de Développement Regional (Regional Development Agencies or ADRs) on the topic of “Solutions Based Service Delivery.” The learning exchange was led by Creative Associate’s Practice Area Director for the Democracy, Governance and Electoral Integrity and the ADRs from seven (7) regions. The learning exchange provided the space and opportunity for the ADRs to discuss alternative approaches in the implementation of the PDSECS. Lastly, under Objective 2, Mali PSR continued to organize community dialogues that aims to strengthen the communication between citizens and elected officials and increase transparency, accountability and engagement in the management of local government affairs. Dialogues were also conducted between government leaders, citizens, and members of the private sector to discuss ways to strengthen alliances and collective action in support of local development.

- Objective 2 Key Activities**
- 6 PDSECS drafted (Mopti, Youwarou, Gao, Soni Ali Ber, Bourem and Bamban)
 - Virtual meeting on Solutions Based Service Delivery
 - 11 workshops to establish/ strengthen information-sharing mechanisms
 - 13 dialogues between citizens, elected officials and the private sector

Objective 3. Mali PSR implemented several activities during the quarter that contribute to empowering youth and strengthening their resilience to violent extremism. These include: (1) leadership training for youth who participated in asset mapping during Year 2 from seven communes in the North; (2) intergenerational dialogues in 17 communes to strengthen the relationships and trust between youth and elders; (3) eight virtual cafes to bring youth together in a safe space to discuss issues of concern to them about their role and the challenges they face their communities; and, (4) on International Women's Day, the Mali PSR team celebrated with the rest of the world on March 8th, women in nine communes, and the importance of their roles in the community and ways to reinforce their leadership roles and participation in countering violent extremism.

- Objective 3 Key Activities**
- Leadership training for youth in 7 communes
 - 17 intergenerational dialogues
 - 2 workshops to implement advocacy initiatives
 - 8 Youth Cafes
 - 9 International Women’s Day activities

Objective 4: Strides were made during the quarter to reach a critical mass of Malian citizens—men, women, and youth in particular, with COVID-19 messaging to mitigate the spread of the virus. This was accomplished through the development and diffusion of 1,065 messages on COVID-19 by Mali PSR youth grantees on social media and on the radio. In addition to the messages, a Mali PSR-supported slam poem video that had been previously developed in French and Bambara was broadcast on local radio networks in 20 communes in Segou and Mopti, and

on national TV. Mali PSR held meetings in 10 communes¹ with local COVID-19 commissions to identify non-medical needs related to and arising from the pandemic and the program supported town hall meetings and open council hearings in eight (8) communes² for citizens to air concerns and propose solutions about COVID-19 service delivery. Another key accomplishment for the quarter was the completion of a rapid political economy analysis of Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, and Sikasso to identify emerging issues related to the pandemic in these four (4) localities for the purposes of developing context-appropriate activities. The program conducted four (4) partner outreach and orientation sessions on the program's grant processes for 45 organizations from the regions of Timbuktu and Mopti as potential partners for COVID-19 programming. Finally, Mali PSR concluded its partnership with Moonshot CVE who has been monitoring mis and disinformation narratives pertaining to the pandemic. Before concluding their work with Mali PSR, Moonshot conducted training for 23 youth on how to identify mis/dis information narrative and rumors and ways to counter misinformation using positive social narratives. Moonshot also completed a Campaign Blueprint for Mali PSR to design a communications campaign or outreach strategy related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Objective 4 Key Activities

- 1,065 messages on COVID-19 protective measures posted.
- Coordination meetings in 10 communes
- 4 partner outreach and orientation sessions.
- 8 town hall meetings and open council hearings.
- 23 youth trained on detecting and verifying mis/disinformation

II. BACKGROUND

The Mali Peacebuilding, Stabilization and Reconciliation program is a USAID five-year \$20 million contract with a \$5 million Crisis Modifier that was activated on June 2, 2020 to address the COVID-19 global pandemic and its first and second order impacts in Mali. The program is implemented by Creative Associates International (Creative) along with local partners *Association Malienne pour la Survie au Sahel (AMSS)*, facilitating implementation in northern Mali; Think Peace, facilitating implementation in the center of Mali; and Moonshot CVE, responsible for identifying and countering disinformation around COVID-19. The purpose of this program is to improve prospects for long-term peace, security, and reconciliation by building trust between conflict-affected communities and their governments; strengthening the ability of communities to mitigate and manage conflict, prioritize and implement community-led action around their most pressing development needs; training and empowering marginalized youth as change agents; and addressing immediate and second order impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Program activities are being implemented in 46 conflict-affected communes in central and northern Mali covering seven (7) regions: Ségou, Mopti, Tombouctou, Gao, Kidal, Menaka and Taoudenit, with linkages to regional and national efforts intended to promote peace, reconciliation and development; Crisis Modifier activities are additionally being implemented in Sikasso, Kayes, Koulikoro and the districts of Bamako.

¹ Ansongo, Tessalit, Ouattagouna and Menaka in the North; Bandiagara, Bankass, Djenné, Douentza, Markala and Segou.

² The meetings were held in the communes of Yorosso and Kadiolo in Sikasso region; Achamour in Tombouctou region; Niono and Macina in Segou region; Djenné, Tenenkou and Youwarrou in Mopti region.

The goal of Mali PSR is to contribute to measurable improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness and capacities of local communities to be more resilient to conflict and violent extremism, and to address the immediate and long-term effects of COVID-19. Fostering stability in target regions is not only a desired end unto itself, but a necessary pre-condition for the full and complete implementation of the Algiers Peace Accord and the regional development plans, which, in turn, will create conditions for more lasting, durable peace. Mali PSR activities are integrated through the following four objectives which support this broader program goal.

- Objective 1: Community Resilience to Violence and Conflict Reinforced
- Objective 2: Inclusive Governance and Civic Engagement Strengthened in Conflict-Affected Communities
- Objective 3: Empowering Youth and Building Their Resilience to Violent Extremism
- Objective 4: Impact of Covid-19 and the Associated Second Order Effects on Malian Communities Mitigated

III. CONTEXT

One of the key highlights of the January 1 – March 31, 2021 reporting period was the adoption of the Transitional Government’s action plan and roadmap, which was submitted by Prime Minister Moctar Ouane to the National Transition Council on February 19th during an extraordinary session. The action plan includes six (6) priority areas: security, institutional and political reforms, good governance, education, social stability and elections. Political analysts have characterized the action plan as ambitious, especially given that the plan was submitted almost seven (7) months into the 18-month transition period. The chief concerns cited pertain to the time required and capacity of the transitional authorities to execute the plan, in particular the holding of a constitutional referendum and general elections,³ especially after the transitional authorities ended the mandate of the Independent National Electoral Commission in charge of monitoring responsibilities during elections, on February 1st.

Another major political highlight during the quarter was the holding of the fifth high-level session of the Algiers Peace Accord Monitoring Committee on February 11th, 2021 in Kidal. This was the first time since the signing of the Accord that such a meeting was held outside of Bamako. The meeting took place in Kidal, the stronghold of the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA), signatory of the Peace Accord, which also held political significance. Observers commended this meeting and view it as an advancement in the implementation of the Peace Accord. On January 4th and 5th, members of the CMA and of the Platform⁴ met in Anefif, Kidal region, and issued a joint statement in which they pledged to promote social cohesion and to ensure the protection of people and property. To demonstrate this commitment, on January 10th they established a joint checkpoint on the main road linking the communes of Anefif and Tessalit.

Another political milestone this quarter was a three-day visit of Prime Minister Ouane to the Mopti region of central Mali. During the visit on March 19 to 21, he met with the Regional Council of Civil Society Organizations in Sevare and discussed the security situation with community

³ Regional, local, presidential and legislative elections

⁴ The Platform is comprised of the *Coordination des Mouvements et Fronts Patriotiques de Résistance* (CMFPR-I), the *Groupe d’Autodéfense Touareg Imghad et Alliés* (GATIA), the *Mouvement Arabe de l’Azawad* (MAA), a faction of the *Coalition du Peuple de l’Azawad* (CPA).

members in the communes of Mopti, Konna and Bandiagara. He also publicly donated food and other supplies to internally displaced persons (IDPs) inside the ATT Bougou camp in Bandiagara and distributed supplies to the health center.

During the quarter, the security situation mildly improved from the previous quarter. Approximately 1,100 security incidents took place across the country involving crime, banditry, Improvised Explosive Device incidents, and attacks on civilians and Malian and international soldiers (namely UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and Barkhane forces).

In the Center, insecurity continued to prevail, predominantly in the Niono *cercle*, including a hostile siege of the village of Farabougou in the Dogofry commune, which borders one of Mali PSR's communes, Diabaly. In October 2020, the village was occupied by armed groups, forcing many citizens to flee to the communes of Diabaly, Sokolo and Niono. The siege was the first test of the transitional authorities who took power in August. Between February and March 2021, the Farabougou crisis mobilized local influential community members, such as religious leaders and traditional communicators, to find entry points to resolve the disputes between armed groups and the Dozos, as well as the transitional authorities of the country and development and humanitarian actors, including Mali PSR. A high-level forum was chaired in Niono by Ismaila Wagué, the Minister of National Reconciliation on February 21, 2021, which facilitated a non-aggression agreement between the armed groups and the various Dozo brotherhoods, except for the hunters in the village of B3, who refused to disarm as requested by armed groups. The national army was not present in Farabougou at the time of the siege and humanitarian actors could only safely access and provide assistance to IDPs in the nearby villages. Farabougou remains under the control of armed groups and, as of the end of this reporting period, is still inaccessible. The situation continues to be carefully monitored for possible windows of opportunity for the program's Community Engagement Committee (CEC) in the adjacent commune of Diabaly, who are currently providing support to displaced residents, to provide assistance to those who are still inside the village.

During the quarter, multiple attacks were carried out by armed groups in Douentza and clashes between armed groups and Dozos in Koro continued, such as the attack on a temporary MINUSMA base in the village of Kerena in Douentza. Armed groups also targeted the gendarmerie in the town of Bandiagara, killing eight (8) gendarmes and wounding nine (9) others, and taking three (3) vehicles.

Local peace agreements and reconciliation initiatives involving direct negotiations between communities and non-state armed groups have contributed to de-escalating tensions in the Dogon Plateau⁵, in particular in Bankass and Koro *cercles*. For example, during the quarter in Koro *cercle*, agreements between the Peuhl and Dogon communities aimed to support the return of internally displaced persons and provide basic social services. In the Bankass *cercle*, eight (8) out of 11 communities reached verbal agreements with armed groups to avoid attacks on the condition that the communes respect a number of restrictive measures, including the closure of formal schools, mandatory veils for women, and the absence of state symbols. However, some

⁵ The plateau Dogon includes PSR communes of Koro, Ouenkoro, Segue, Douentza Bankass, Bandiagara, Diougani et Dinangourou.

community members in the plateau, notably Bandiagara are reportedly hostile to the peace initiatives and perceived them as concessions to armed groups.

In the North, local sources report attacks of armed groups in the communes of Menaka, Ansongo, Anderamboukane, Ouattagouna and Tessit. These attacks targeted mainly civilians, as well as national and international armed forces. Of particular note was the assault by the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) on March 15 killing 33 Malian soldiers and wounding 14 near the town of Tessit, located in the Gao region. This attack was the deadliest attack against Malian forces since the establishment of the Transitional Government. In Gao region, Ansongo *cercle*, the Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) and ISGS continued to levy illegal and excessive taxes (*dime/zakat*⁶) from the communities in the absence of the State.

During the quarter, a G-5 regional summit was held in N'Djamena, Chad on February 15 and 16, 2021. President Emmanuel Macron of France announced that France would not downsize its *Operation Barkhane* presence in the Sahel and would maintain current troop numbers at 5,100 soldiers, contradicting rumors that France may yield to domestic pressure and anti-French demonstrations in Mali. Macron also reiterated his opposition to a dialogue with armed groups, which was a key recommendation resulting from the inclusive national dialogue held in December 2019 in Mali and echoed by Prime Minister Ouane.

The reporting period also marked the expansion of insecurity southwards in Sikasso, with spill-over to neighboring countries such as Niger and Burkina Faso. Attacks by armed groups on March 15 in Banibangou in Tillabéri region, Niger, along the border with Mali, killed at least 58 people and was responsible for the death of at least 137 people in Tahoua region, Niger on March 21.

The deteriorating security situation due to threats of attacks by armed groups, intimidation, spot checks, *zakat* levies, kidnappings, and assassinations increased the displacement of people to Ansongo and Gao towns. In Anderamboukane, clashes between JNIM and ISGS resulted in a massive displacement of people fleeing to the cities of Gao and Ansongo. During this quarter, large-scale military operations by the Malian army and international forces at the Niger border increased the number of refugees and IDPs to Ménaka town, creating additional need for shelter, food, and healthcare (see table below showing the IDP/refugee situation per region)

Displaced Persons: Gao, Kidal, Manaka				
Host Regions	Households	Women	Men	Departure Areas/Reasons
Refugees				
Gao	1297	3474	29953	Conflict areas near Burkina and Niger
Ménaka	2386	9035	7247	Conflict zones near Niger
Total	3683	12509	37200	
Internally Displaced People				
Gao	13617	35745	27570	Ouattagouana, Tessit, N'Tillit, Talataye, Tin Hama

⁶ Mandatory payment made annually under Islamic law on certain kinds of assets.

Kidal	222	486	404	Talataye
Ménaka	3518	11817	9327	Anderamboukane and Menaka
Total	17357	48048	37301	

Table 1: Displaced Persons in Gao, Kidal and Menaka. Source: AMSS/UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

In the Center at the end of February 2021, the Koro Regional Social Development Service reported approximately 25,247 displaced persons fleeing intra-community violence from the 16 communes⁷ of the *cercle*, including a total of 837 refugees from Burkina Faso, from the communes of Toeni, Bi and Lanfièra of the Sourou province; the communes of Kain and Thiou of the Yatenga province; and the communes of Barani and Kombori of the Kossi province.

In the commune of Markala, more than 100 IDPs from Dougabougou sought refuge in the village of Dougouba and the town of Markala, following tensions between Dozos and Peuhls.

Like the previous quarter, some of the program's intervention sites remain inaccessible (Dioungani, Dinangourou and Togue-Mourari in the Center) or at high risk (Ouattagouna, Tessit and Tarkint in the North), and others are experiencing emerging tensions (Sikasso in the South). As a result, the program had to relocate several activities that had been planned in Yorosso (Sikaso region), Bandiagara, Bankass and Koro to safer areas such as Koutiala and Sevare.

COVID-19 in Mali.

Despite a number of awareness campaigns and mitigation/prevention activities conducted by the GOM, Mali PSR and other partners, community behavior in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic remains largely unchanged, and preventative measures go unheeded.

During reporting period, a total of 10,285 people were confirmed positive for COVID-19. A table indicating the number of cases and the percentage of total cases by commune is below:

Regions/District	Number of Cases	Percentage
Bamako	6,520	63%
Koulikoro	1,361	13%
Kayes	765	7%
Timbuktu	598	6%
Mopti	398	4%
Sikasso	228	2%
Gao	129	1%
Kidal	63	less than 1%

⁷ Toroly, Bondo, Madougou, Kassa, Bamba, Diankabou, Koporopen, Koporona, Youdiou, Dinangourou, Dioungani, Barapirely, Dougoutene2, Yoro, Pelmaoude and Koro.

Ségou	112	less than 1%
Menaka	4	less than 1%

A number of COVID cases were reported this quarter in the N'Tahaca gold site in the Gao region, which is under the control of armed groups. Armed groups prevent health services and limit preventative actions by the Government of Mali (GoM) and its partners.

The number of deaths Mali since the beginning of the pandemic is 385 (4% of all cases); and the number of cured cases is 6,830 or 70% of all cases. Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases, the country is now said to be experiencing a third wave of the Coronavirus, causing the authorities to maintain the country's state of emergency.

Commune Classification

Mali PSR's commune classification remains an important tool that allows the program to regularly review and update communes' risks and conflict assessments; it also helps the program team to adapt and tailor program activities to respond to the changing dynamics. The classification responds to unanticipated changes in an ever-evolving security context, and allows for Sequencing, Layering, and Integration (SLI) adjustments in activity design and implementation.

The commune classification, as provided below, enabled Mali PSR to track the changes in commune status:

Under Objective 1

- Level of conflicts
- Status of the mechanisms to prevent and mitigate conflicts
- Existence of external threats

Under Objective 2

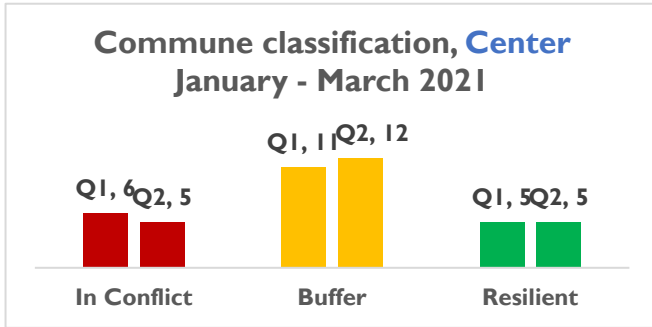
- Functioning of state services
- Basic social services to the citizen
- Existence of communication and exchange mechanisms between the state and the citizens

Under Objective 3

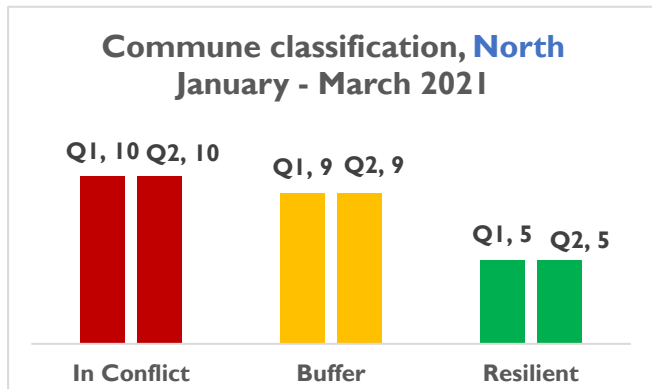
- Existence of radical beliefs
- Engagement of youth in violent extremist activities
- Occupation by violent extremist groups

Using the *Commune Classification Tool* Mali PSR assessed communes at the end of this quarter and classified them as conflict, buffer and resilient. The table in Annex 6 provides a table of current commune classifications and changes from the previous quarter.

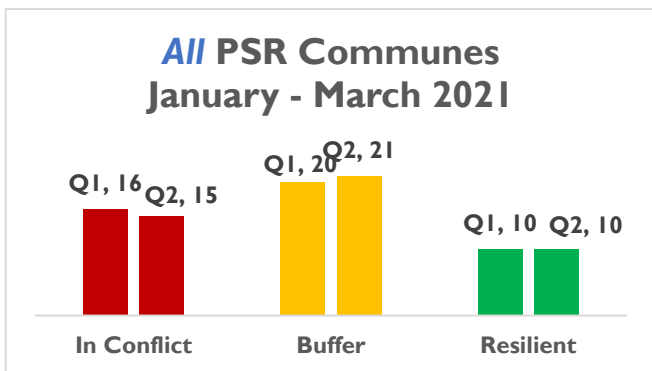
General trends in communes' designation: Despite the signature of local peace agreements this quarter, the volatile security situation continues to restrict the majority of Mali PSR communes to the "in conflict" or "buffer" designations, with one commune moving from conflict to buffer this quarter.



Out of a total of 22 communes in the Center (Mopti and Ségou), only one (1) changed designation during the quarter: the commune of Diabaly moved from conflict to buffer.



In the North, classification of the 24 communes was unchanged, with 42% of the communes remaining in conflict; 38% in buffer and 21% as resilient.



By the end of the quarter, a change of status in the commune of Diabaly had occurred. The communes classified as buffer (21) constitute 45.7% of Mali PSR communes, 15 communes are considered in conflict (32.6%) and 10 communes (21.7%) are resilient.

IV. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION

Mali PSR program activities were accelerated during the second quarter and made progress towards the following key initiatives: 1) the development of a commune-level early warning system; 2) youth focused activities including leadership and livelihood training, and 3) the launching of youth cafes and other advocacy initiatives. Mali PSR continued to monitor and make adjustments to programming due to a fluid security environment and recurrent attacks by armed groups as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited the participation of community members.

The program continued to apply a conflict-sensitive approach to many of its activities by mapping available state and non-governmental resources to support victims of violence, trauma and gender-based violence. It worked to enhance whole-of-community approaches to strengthen conflict prevention and mitigation techniques; address grievances through improved knowledge of legal texts governing access to and control of natural resources; increase dialogue between

elders and young people; promote private sector participation in local development and implementation of the PDSEC; and expand opportunities for youth through trainings on leadership, advocacy, and promoting safe COVID-19 behaviors.

Key achievements for this reporting period are detailed below.

Objective I: Community Resilience to Violence and Conflict Reinforced

A key achievement for the quarter was the launching of a commune-level Early Warning Early Response (EWER) initiative. The establishment of an EWER system will help to facilitate the transmission of urgent information and data to the appropriate authorities in order to diffuse tensions, trigger responses, and coordinate stakeholders. Another important milestone that was made during the quarter was Mali PSR's support for productive exchanges between members of the CEC, CEP grantees, and local leaders to foster dialogue in an effort to revitalize trust in local governance systems. During the quarter, trainings were conducted on the Pastoral Charter and Agricultural Charter to reduce natural resource-related conflicts and a mapping of state and community support structures was carried out to identify possible resources available to provide needed support to trauma victims.

IR 1.1 Communities develop and implement Early Warning and Response Systems

Establishing an Early Warning Early Response System

Mali PSR contracted the services of Fund for Peace (FFP) to provide technical assistance and support in the development of an Early Warning Early Response (EWER) system. The goal this year is to pilot the EWER system in ten communes.⁸ These communes were selected based on the results of the Fragility and Resilience Assessment Methodology carried out in 2019, which indicated that trust and confidence are sufficiently high enough in these communes that citizens will be inclined to sound alerts of conflict and have confidence in a safe and reliable response. To launch this activity, FFP and the Mali PSR consortium team began phase one, which was to develop a draft strategy document outlining the strategic approach that will be used to establish a community-level, people-centered early warning and response system that can be integrated into ECOWARN's EWER system. This will be aligned with the Human Security Framework, where early warning indicators are developed around human security pillars and linked to response actors. The draft strategy was developed during the quarter, following an assessment conducted by Mali PSR to understand who is best placed to manage or mitigate risks or vulnerabilities. The goal is to structure community EWER systems within a single framework that is consistent and compatible with the national and regional ECOWARN and CNAP structures—where parameters for indicators; data collection, processing, and reporting; and response triggers and structures are jointly defined and are able to facilitate the upward flow and aggregation of information.

To launch this process, FFP and Mali PSR identified strategically-positioned organizations who met criteria such as legal registration, experience in conflict prevention and mitigation, and active participation in peacebuilding activities to advise on the selection of commune focal points. These organizations are Mali PSR's strategic partners to establish the system and will be trained by FFP,

⁸ Markala, Segué, Segou, Ouenkoro, and Tenenkou in the Center. Agouni, Alata, Ber, Sony Aliber, and, Bamba in the North.

Mali PSR, and CNAP during roll-out to build their capacity to facilitate EWER processes in their communes. The identified focal points will be responsible for data collection, analysis, alert response by appropriate community members, organizations and/or authorities. To identify the focal points, FFP extended the methodology undertaken under the USAID/ Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa program (REWARD), during which it developed a Stakeholder Network Analysis (SNA) across the West African sub-region, and designed a survey which allowed for a deeper analysis of the presence and activities of organizations at the commune level. This survey designed under REWARD was adapted to reflect Mali's unique socio-political landscape and tailored to identify programmatic work specific to Mali's civil society ecosystem and achieve maximum buy-in by the communities.

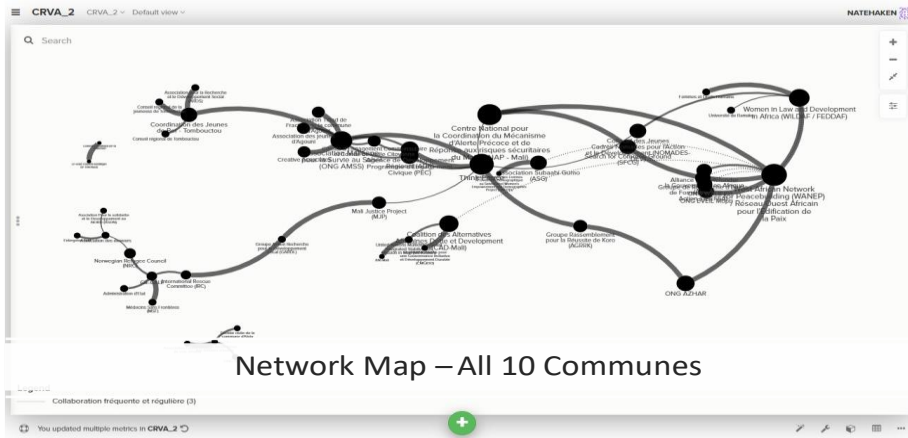


Figure 1: Combined network map across 10 pilot communes

The SNA process identified 45 organizations in the network which were disaggregated by commune, shown in Figures 1 and 2. The size of the nodes on the maps indicates their respective reach – a measure of centrality that indicates a given entity's capacity to function as a disseminator of information.

In preparation for Phase 2 beginning in the third quarter, FFP has begun to collect, classify, and upload Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) data to a platform which will provide a baseline for layering and juxtaposing early warning data from the Mali PSR EWER system. Hence, data collected by the focal points will be analyzed in context for a more complete picture of how primary data about local level risks fits into the broader patterns and trends at the level of the Cercle, Region, and Country.

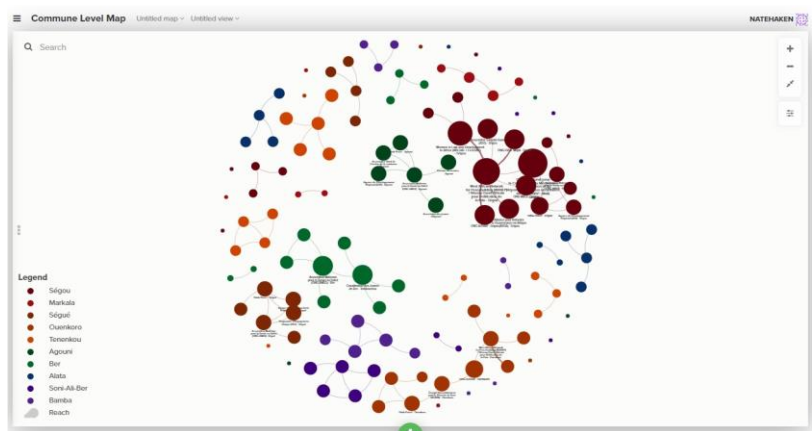


Figure 2: Organization network map, by commune

IR 1.2. Communities develop nonviolent conflict mitigation and management mechanisms to resolve disputes and grievances, protect human rights, and strengthen social cohesion

Exchanges on Good Governance

During the reporting period, Mali PSR conducted two workshops on good governance in the communes of Bourem-Inaly and Timbuktu. The workshops stimulated constructive exchanges between members of the CECs, CEP grantees, and local leaders in an effort to revitalize a strong

“This exchange has helped me to identify that the qualities that are recognized as being “women’s, including integrity, analytical ability, a sense of detail, understanding, listening, are qualities in successful leadership. Our participation is not only a right but also an asset.”
Member of the local Coordination of Women's Associations and NGOs (CAFO) and CEP grantee

local governance system. The workshops which were attended by 61 participants (21 men, 8 women and 1 youth in Timbuktu; 21 men, 8 women and 2 young people in Bourem Inaly).

In Bourem-Inaly, discussions centered around the duties and rights of citizens, active participation and the importance of representation of women, and the access to and control of resources. These themes highlighted the importance of citizens’ involvement and their responsibilities in the management of local affairs which were

deemed essential to fostering genuine governance. Participants acknowledged that citizens and civil society should play a role in local development and in the search for peace. This was particularly true for the female participants in the workshop, who shared their own experiences with community peacebuilding and recounted the specific challenges and opportunities for women in these efforts.

In Timbuktu, participants defined good governance as building consensus through transparent management systems and involving citizens in the management of local affairs and monitoring of local development policies and initiatives. According to the participants, the challenges identified in building the foundation of good governance lie in appropriately allocating resources for community development and integrating capacity building around resource mobilization, citizens’ roles and responsibilities, and

“From these exchanges, we can see that efforts must be collective and be based on transparency, accountability, integration and participation in order to achieve sustainable development. To this end, our primary role is to encourage participation and ensure that society is at the heart of all development actions, this will promote stronger governance.”
Mohamed, member of the Timbuktu CEP monitoring committee.

real-time information sharing into development strategies. The key takeaway from the meetings in Timbuktu is that there is a desire of citizens to play their part and improve governance through open collaboration. Practically speaking, the community members want their elected officials to 1) increase transparency, 2) make decisions and policies that take into account citizens’ perspectives in decision-making, and 3) to encourage participatory decision-making processes.

Pastoral Charter and Agricultural Orientation Law Trainings

Mali PSR held three trainings on the Pastoral Charter and Agricultural Orientation Law in the communes of Bourem Inaly, Soboundou and Timbuktu in an effort to enhance community knowledge and local capacity for conflict management based on established laws that govern access to natural resources. The trainings brought together herders, farmers, CEP grantees, land commission (COFOs) and CEC members, rural women and elected officials who share a common goal in the equitable management and use of scarce natural resources, upon which their livelihoods depend. 95 participants, including 71 men, 19 women and 5 youth attended the two-day training facilitated by staff of the Chamber of Agriculture in each commune.



Participants at the Bourem-Inaly training

"This is the very first time for me to learn about the existence of an agricultural law and pastoral charter. I think that with the dissemination of these texts, we can develop our community and avoid many of the unnecessary conflicts that we are experiencing today. The project must continue to help us in the implementation of this text which I think is the only guarantee to avoid conflicts between farmers and herders."

Farimata, CEP-Soboundou beneficiary

At the beginning of the training, most participants confessed they were not aware of the existence of the two (2) laws that provide the fundamental principles and general rules governing the pastoral activities and agricultural economic activities in Mali.

During the training, participants stated the laws were seemingly drafted by technocrats and elected officials with limited knowledge of the realities on the ground. They opined that the laws clearly lacked the participation of those most affected by the laws and limited

understanding of the citizens who they govern. This lack of knowledge of the laws resulted in farmers and herders developing their own ad hoc strategies to access and control natural resources, the growing scarcity of which has led to increasing tensions and conflicts. The key problems to the application of the laws as identified by the participants of the training included: 1) the absence of state to ensure herders and farmers adhere to the laws; and 2) inadequate water points, a lack of demarcation on pastoral corridors and wandering of animals onto farms.

The participants made the following recommendations to address these challenges: 1) improve the rehabilitation of pastoral trails, 2) dig new pastoral wells, and 3) broaden the awareness of the laws governing agriculture and pastoral activities. Participants also stressed the importance of continuing training on these laws and organizing exchange visits for farmers and herders.

Mapping Traditional Justice Actors

On February 8, members of the Mali PSR team and the USAID-funded Mali Justice Project (MJP) met with the Directorate General of the Ministry of Territorial Administration to discuss the process of mapping authorities and actors involved in traditional justice processes. Mali PSR and MJP expect to generate a comprehensive list of these actors by administrative entity (namely the village, the *fraction*⁹ and the district) to assist the transition government in identifying and addressing the capacity needs of these actors in order to expand communities' access to the adjudication of their grievances. This activity is contingent on the passing of a draft bill on the status and role of traditional authorities and *cadis*.¹⁰

"Climate change and high population growth have made the relations between herders and farmers more difficult, and this has been a factor in exacerbating conflicts between these actors, particularly around the issue of transhumance corridors, which are very often turned into agricultural fields by farmers. As a result, we are witnessing the wandering of livestock, and this is causing damage to farmers' fields."

Participant from Bourem-Inaly

IR 1.3: Victims of violence are identified and supported through trauma-informed approaches to community reintegration and reconciliation.

Mapping of State Services and Community Management Structures

During the quarter, Mali PSR conducted a mapping of service providers to understand the network of options available for care and referral of victims of trauma or violence. This mapping activity resulted in the identification of 13 government services, 33 NGOs and two (2) community-based structures inside 45 communes¹¹ that provide services to victims of conflict-related trauma (see Annex 1). The mapping identified that all communes have state and/or community structures that provide some element of service that range from training, advocacy, and referral to health facilities and protection services, to counseling, medical assistance, psychosocial support and case management. Mali PSR will use this mapping to identify the appropriate service providers for victims of violence and trauma in conflict-affected communities and to support the reintegration and reconciliation of displaced persons and returnees, especially those affected by violence.

Reintegration and Reconciliation Impact Evaluation

An Impact Evaluation (IE) study commissioned by USAID/Mali, is being conducted by a research team from the University of California, Los Angeles to assess Mali PSR's reintegration and

⁹ Administrative nomadic entity.

¹⁰ Islamic judges who deliver justice, including in criminal matters.

¹¹ Except in Togue-Mourari due to insecurity

reconciliation interventions. The Impact Evaluation is focusing on the interventions that will be used to support the return and reintegration of displaced persons in the Center and North of Mali. The researchers, Mali PSR and USAID/Mali have determined the study parameters for the evaluation and consultations have begun with a local Malian survey firm. Initial surveys and focus group discussions will assess episodes of displacement; the causes of displacement; the main destinations of displaced people; and the current situation of returnees. Under the reporting period, Mali PSR continued to develop and implement the strategy for the IE in preparation for the impact evaluation. The IE is slated to formally begin in Quarter 3, commencing with baseline surveys in nine communes.¹²

Objective 2: Inclusive Governance and Civic Engagement Strengthened in Conflict Affected Communities

In collaboration with the Regional Development Agencies, Mali PSR is supporting the drafting of six (6) *Plans de Developpement, Economique, Social et Culturel* (PDSECs) in Mopti, Youwarou, Gao, Bamba, Soni Ali Ber and Bourem by covering the cost of citizen and CSO participation in the local planning process. By involving local citizens, Mali PSR is helping to enhance inclusive governance. Mali PSR is providing support through orientation sessions to community members to provide accurate information about the steps that will be used to conduct a review and revision of the commune's PDSEC, and the importance of engaging all members of the community—especially women and youth in the revisions of the local development plan. To enhance the technical assistance being provided on PDSECs, Mali PSR organized a virtual learning event for the first time with the directors of the ADRs from the seven (7) intervention regions. Led by Creative's Director of the Democracy, Governance, and Electoral Integrity Practice Area and the Mali PSR team, this event covered critical local development challenges in resource-limited communities. With the intention of establishing a community of practice among the ADRs, this virtual event facilitated dialogues between the Directors on ways to address these challenges through solution-based planning. The program also organized 11 workshops¹³ between elected officials and citizens to facilitate improved communication to enhance the inclusive governance processes. Additionally, 13 dialogues were organized between government, citizens and private sector in order to identify solutions to local development challenges in the PDSEC.

IR 2.1: Increased participation and inclusion of citizens in the PDSEC development, validation and review process is strengthened.

Increasing community participation in PDSEC development process.

With support from Mali PSR, the ADRs, who lead PDSEC development processes, made significant strides in including citizens and CSO representatives in the PDSEC development processes. In the Mopti region, the ADRs completed the PDSECs for Mopti and Youwarou with support from Mali PSR. The key event marking this important milestone was a handover ceremony of the revised PDSECs by the ADRs to the mayors of those communes, as well as those for Segue and Ouenkoro that were completed during the previous quarter.

¹² Tessit, Bourem, Sony Aliber, Diabaly, Niono, Tongue, Douentza, Youwarou, and one to be determined in the region of Mopti

¹³ Markala, Bankass, Teninkou, Douentza, Agouni,



Mopti Secretary General receiving new PDSEC

In Gao region, the ADRs drafted the PDSECs for the communes of Gao, Soni Ali Ber, Bourem and Bamba, based on inputs provided by citizens and CSOs during consultations supported by Mali PSR last quarter. The Mali PSR team reviewed the draft documents and confirmed that they adhered to the simplified guide to the PDSEC development process, drafted with support from the USAID/Sub-National Governance Project. The PDSECs successfully identified local development challenges by sector and illustrated the key development priorities for each commune.

There were a few important recommendations that came out of the review that reflected the need to integrate new themes such as capacity-building in conflict prevention and management, ways to empowerment of youth and women, and crisis anticipation/disaster management for floods, diseases and other crises. These PDSECs will be to submit the completed versions to members of the commune councils for review and validation prior to finalization and dissemination.

Mali PSR supported the ADR in Timbuktu to convene consultation and planning workshops in six (6) communes¹⁴ in January attended by 782 participants. The workshops were held over two days and were structured to assess citizens' concerns and seek their inputs and perspectives regarding what would be elaborated in the PDSECs of their respective communes.

During the discussions, young people identified employment-generating initiatives, youth inclusion in decision-making processes, and building their capacity in advocacy techniques as their main priorities. Women identified the need for greater involvement in local decision-making processes and training for rural women in food processing and market gardening as their priorities. They also raised the need for community support in the prevention of gender-based violence and support for survivors.

"At the beginning of the year, the commune was worried about how to renew its PDSEC. Fortunately, Mali PSR offered to assist us. I think everything went according to plan with a strong involvement of all the actors."

Mohamed, a young participant in the Timbuktu planning workshop

Disaster management support for emergency responses like floods and COVID-19 were identified as critical, and the need for water infrastructure and building of schools and health centers were also identified as overall priorities.

At the adoption and validation meetings of the PDSECs in Segou region, 218 participants from five (5) communes¹⁵ participated. In attendance were members of the PDSEC steering committee, village leaders, civil society organizations, youth organizations and CAFOs.

¹⁴ Ber, Bourem Inaly, Dire, Goundam, Soboundou and Timbuktu.

¹⁵ Pelengana, urban commune of Segou, Matomo, Diabaly and Niono.

The key priorities as identified by each commune included the following:

In Niono (February 9):

- Organize inter-community dialogues between farmers, herders and hunters;
- Develop market gardening and rice fields; and
- Train producers in processing and conservation techniques for market garden products.

In Diabaly (February 17):

- Hold village sensitization sessions on the importance of and access to improved seeds;
- Organize an annual conference of seed growers;
- Hold annual meetings on conflict prevention and management;
- Support the local committee of reconciliation set up by the Ministry of Reconciliation; and
- Support reforestation initiative by planters.

In Matomo (February 19):

- Hold an information meetings in each village on the conditions regulating access to fertilizers;
- Build a seed bank; and
- Build two vaccination parks for cattle and a slaughter area.

In Pelengana (March 11):

- Create/revitalize cereal banks;
- Build market gardening perimeters; and
- Set up fodder fields.

In the urban commune of Segou (March 23):

- Provide women gardeners with motorcycle pumps;
- Train members of the fishermen's cooperatives;
- Equip the fishing councils with floating cages; and
- Organize a reforestation day.

The commune councils subsequently validated the draft PDSECs in Niono on February 15; Diabaly on February 17; Matomo on February 23; and Pelengana on March 23. Review and validation of the PDSEC from the Segou urban commune is scheduled for Quarter 3.

Solution-based exchanges

Faced with the challenges of trying to meet communities' expectations to implement ambitious PDSECs with scarce resources, Mali PSR organized a virtual learning event with the directors of the ADRs of all seven (7) regions in the North and Center on the topic of "Solutions Based Service Delivery" on February 23rd. The event provided space for experienced ADRs from Mopti, Segou, Gao and Timbuktu as well as newly appointed ADR Directors from Kidal, Menaka and Taoudeni to share challenges facing their communes during the development of PDSECs. The virtual learning event was held with Deborah Kimble, Creative's Director for the Democracy, Governance and Elections Integrity Practice Area and discussions focused on what alternative approaches should be considered to address challenges related to, for example, security and

youth unemployment. The methodology that was proposed during this event emphasized identifying the multiple causes of a problem, breaking problems into “bite-sized” pieces, and brainstorming and prioritizing the small steps that will lead to solutions. Key take-aways from this event included the value of citizen involvement and the importance of citizen responsibility in commune management/decision-making. The following issues were also raised by the ADRs and will be considered for future learning events: managing citizen expectations, managing tension around resource constraints, local resource mobilization, and security as a whole-of-community concern.

Enhancing access to and exchange of information

An important objective of Mali PSR is to enhance inclusive local governance. To this end, the program organized 11 workshops during the quarter to discuss how to foster stronger communication between community members and their leaders. During the workshops, participants assessed the needs of the different local actors, the strengths and weaknesses of existing communication channels, the key topic areas that actors use their platform to communicate on, and the roles and responsibilities of the various actors. Workshops took place in 11 communes¹⁶ and reached a total of 339 people including 100 in the Center (57 men, 26 women and 17 youth) and 239 in the north (155 men, 53 women and 31 youth)

In both the northern and central communes, discussions during the workshops identified a breakdown in communication between community members and local leaders. This breakdown has had a negative impact on the management of public affairs and the ability to address local development issues. A number of other issues were identified as key factors in the breakdown, including: 1) poor information sharing practices for example, leaders posting information on the town hall billboard in French; 2) insufficient quality and quantity of shared community content; 3) the general lack of

"I commend this initiative which allowed us to discuss a major problem between elected officials and citizens, namely the lack of information. People often wonder if the town halls are private or public sectors because some elected officials behave like they are better than others. I think now everyone understands their place in the community and that the shortcomings in information sharing will be corrected and monitored."

Aissata, a young leader in Bankass

trust and confidence by community members in the leadership; 4) community members feeling excluded from local decision-making; and 5) the growing lack of civility between community stakeholders. These findings reflect those identified during the ICAF study in 2019 and remain a key area to address as they continue to undermine the effective participation of citizens in governance processes.

To respond to these issues of concern, participants recommended that communication and trust could be addressed through improved communication, and suggested the use of local radios to share pertinent information, the town criers, inviting community members to participate in general assemblies, and the use of billboards at the town hall to strengthen communication

¹⁶ Markala, Bankass, Tenenkou, Douentza, Bourem, Kidal, Tessit, Alata, Menaka and Agouni and Gao.



Participants in a small-group discussion

channels. In the Center, similar recommendations came out of the discussions, however, recommendations also included use of cellphones and social media networks due to sufficient network connectivity.

Moving forward, participants underscored the need for leaders to improve the participation of more community stakeholders in public decision making, the development of community action plans and the establishment of committees that would be responsible for monitoring

the these efforts and reporting on how the community is taking ownership of solutions. One of the key outcomes of these meetings were communication plans, which participants took the lead in developing noting that the plans were an important first step in holding all sides accountable to being both transparent, communicative and participatory. It was clear to participants that information is key to trust and cooperation between community members and leadership.

One of the key objectives of these meetings was achieved because they helped to establish a foundation for sharing and transparency. They created a commitment between community members and their leaders to improve transparency, communication, and understanding whilst acknowledging that community members' input, as noted by Younoussa, is critical for strengthening democracy and good governance.

"The theme developed during this activity is the basis of democracy: information. The discussions I followed showed the success of the activity because all the stakeholders have identified the shortcomings and proposed solutions that have led to the creation of a communication plan."

Younoussa, a participant in Bankass

IR 2.2. Strengthen links and synergy between key GOM strategies to stabilize northern and central Mali

White Papers

This quarter, Mali PSR submitted a new concept note for two white papers focused on 1) armed groups, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) processes, peace and security and 2) reintegrating armed groups, community considerations and capacities. The initial research for the first topic will begin in Quarter 3 and will be co-authored by Creative's Washington-based in-house DDR expert and a local Malian researcher.

IR 2.3: Citizens and local GOM develop partnership for local solutions to grievance challenges

Supporting citizen and government confidence building measures, through open dialogues

In an effort to improve the exchanges between citizens, government and the private sector, Mali PSR convened dialogues in 14 communes¹⁷ with a total of 453 people, including 285 in the North (193 men, 27 young people and 65 women) and 168 people in the Center (116 men, 28 women, 24 young people). The dialogues focused on finding solutions to local development challenges and strengthening local governance. The participants in these dialogues discussed the roles and responsibilities of each actor in the implementation of the PDSEC.

The dialogues served as a framework for exchanges between key actors in the commune, including regional and local authorities (technical services and elected officials), the private sector (the Chambers of Commerce, Trade, and Agriculture, and the Entrepreneurs' Cooperatives), citizens (members of the CECs, CSOs, traditional authorities, the School Management Committee, CAFO members, and the Youth Council) and USAID/Mali CEP grantees.

The goals of this activities were twofold – developing an understanding of good governance and putting it into practice. Participants recalled the importance of collaboration, communication and participation for citizens, elected leaders, and the private sector, and then using these ideas, agreed on a path forward in the implementation of the communes' PDSECs.

The following proposed division of roles and responsibilities emerged from the various discussions:

"The truth is that civil society and the private sector are not involved in governance, and elected officials do everything they can to ensure that people do not know they have their share of responsibility [in the management of the commune's affairs]. Each team of the town hall works with people with the same political affiliation. There are other people who can participate, and if they are involved, they will bring a lot to the development of the community."
Djeneba, participant from Koro

Structures	Roles
State (National/Regional/Local)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation/advice • Monitoring and evaluation • Penalty/sanctions • Provision of security • Sensitization on tax payment • Technical and financial support • Dissemination of key decisions • Improving the mobilization of resources (financial/tax/internal)

¹⁷ Gao, Bourem, Soni Aly Ber, Anderamboukane, Ansongo, Bamba and Bourem-Inaly, Timbuktu in the North; Tongué, Ségou, Konna, Koro, Diabaly and Youwarou in the Center.

CSO/CBO/Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization on tax payment • Watchdog/oversight • Support to state • Technical and financial support • Mobilization/advocacy around access to basic social services (WASH, education, etc.)
Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support income-generating activities, employment and/or the creation of companies (micro, small and medium-sized) • Support to state • Technical and financial support • Tax payment • Promoting local economic growth and food security by enhancing the development potential of communes, particularly in the field of agriculture (market agriculture and irrigated crops)

Hamadoun, a participant from Konna, stated: *"Thanks to Mali PSR and USAID, I now understood that every citizen can contribute to the development of his commune through involvement in the implementation of the PDSEC. We don't always need to wait for support from the state or a technical and financial partner."*

Objective 3: Empowering Youth and Building their Resilience to Violent Extremism

Under this Objective, building the resilience of young people in the communes affected by conflict, puts youth at the heart of activities designed to engender peace, stability and the fight against violent extremism. This quarter, Mali PSR completed leadership trainings in the seven (7) targeted communes and conducted intergenerational dialogues and advocacy trainings to enhance the capacity of youth as influencers in their communities. Activities also included virtual Youth Cafes aimed at providing space for youth to identify challenges in their own communities and then work together to develop solutions or next steps to raise awareness or advocate for change. Finally, the commemoration of International Women's Day on March 8th served as a venue for highlighting female leadership in countering extremism and fighting COVID-19, and the access of women to decision-making positions in future elections.

IR 3.1 Community's ability to support youth empowerment and leadership is enhanced

Leadership Trainings and Support for Youth Entrepreneurs

The Mali PSR strategy to strengthen young people's resilience to violent extremism aims to position young people on the path to employment by developing their leadership, communication

and entrepreneurship skills. Thus, the program trained 50 youth, including 59 men and 14 women, this quarter in seven (7) northern communes,¹⁸ following the 50 trained in the center during the previous quarter for a total of 120 in 12 communes. Representatives of the private sector working in the areas of agriculture/animal fattening, breeding, shipping and trade (the target activities identified by youth during the asset mapping process that took place in Year 2), were in attendance. The training provided space and an opportunity for dynamic interaction between youth and representatives of the private sector who could mentor them in their professional lives. The training sessions were conducted in local languages, in Arabic in the commune of Agouni, Tamashek in Ménaka and Kidal, and Sonrhai in the remaining communes.



Participants at the leadership training, Menaka

During the five-day training, Mali PSR built young peoples' capacity and raised their awareness about personal and professional development issues including reflection, discernment and positive behavior change in service of the community.

In each training, participants discussed the notion of a leader. For some, leadership is the art of influencing, making the right decisions at the right time, demonstrating competence, or according to

Abdoulaye, a participant in Timbuktu, a leader "is an individual who moves heaven and earth to find the solution to a problem." Participants also worked in plenary and groups sessions to learn strategies and concepts for brainstorming, problem-solving, and decision-making.

At the conclusion of the training, 88% of participants stated they were familiar with personal leadership development process versus 64% at the start. Further, 78% of participants became aware of the proactive characteristics of leadership versus 44% at the start; and 80% of the participants were able to identify active listening tips versus 33% at the start.

In the next quarter, Mali PSR will build on this work with further youth training focused on entrepreneurship to enable targeted youth to continue to build practical skills. Following this training, youth will be grouped around the business sector of their choice and will undergo a practical training with a coach following which, they will formalize

"This training taught me to know how to make decisions, to speak in public, and the importance of youth's role in the development of the commune. The workshop also allowed young leaders to be attentive and react with the right intentions. The workshop came at a good time as the elections are approaching. This will allow young people to play their full role for the future of the commune in particular and the country in general."

Mohamed, a participant in the training from Agouni

¹⁸ Menaka, Ansongo, Bourem, Kidal, Timbuktu, Diré and Agouni

themselves into a cooperative and will be provided with the start-up funds from the program in the form of grants.

Grant activities also contributed to youth entrepreneurship this quarter. During the reporting period, Mali PSR grantees, the Center for the Promotion of Human Rights and Development in Africa (CPHDA) and the *Groupe de Recherche Action pour le Développement Communautaire* (GRADCOM), conducted a series of trainings on youth entrepreneurship and climate-informed agriculture trainings for 150 young youth in Niono, Diabaly, Macina, Tongue and Matomo. The goal of this training was to build essential life skills for youth and to provide them with professional development technical support. Of the 150-youth trained, 69 young women were included and provided with entrepreneurship development skills. In Koro, GRADCOM trained 425 at-risk youth and 75 ex-combatants, including 50 women, on climate-informed agriculture, building the resilience of at-risk youth to violent extremism and contributing to the socio-professional integration of ex-combatants as per the 2015 Algiers Peace Accord.

Intergenerational Dialogues



Participants at the intergenerational dialogue in Achamour

This quarter, intergenerational dialogues brought together 513 participants, including 335 men, 69 women, 109 young people in 17 communes.¹⁹ The dialogues, led by religious leaders, retired teachers, and other community members, aimed to encourage listening, sharing experiences, and discussing values between youth and elders to enhance social cohesion while adapting to new social changes. Against a common framework that enabled elders to educate youth about traditional practices and values and youth to explain current challenges

and conditions they face, each commune identified a theme and facilitator to guide the discussions. The table in Annex 3 highlights the theme in each commune.

In Djenné, Ouenkoro and Macina, the relationship between parents and young people was at the heart of the debates. Participants found that although the rights and duties of each individual in the family were defined, children felt excluded in decision-making. This can lead to a breakdown of communication, which in turn can result in youth looking outside the family for support, including by joining armed groups or gangs. The participants in these dialogues underscored the



"The respect of parents must be imposed differently, as the politeness that governed the relations between generations no longer exists. The dialogues between parents and children are more on equal footing. Parents need to make young people understand that they owe respect."
Mamadou, a participant from Mabéré Ouenkoro

¹⁹ Djenne, Ouenkoro, Segue, Macina, Konna in the Center; Bourem, Tarkint, Tessalit, Ouattagouna, nderamboukane, Bamba, Kidal, Dire, Soboundou, Touwal, Ber and Agouni in the North.

importance of regular, two-way conversations, so that parents can help address challenges and guide youth with their life choices. Participants agreed that community social cohesion may very well start in the home. As a result of these dialogues, the youth committed to sharing salient points with their peer groups, with a view to encourage individual and collective change, and to developing and disseminating messages on social media to raise awareness on social cohesion.

The dialogues in the communes of Bourem, Kidal, Ouattagouna, Bamba, Agouni, and Touwal focused on management of recurrent conflicts. In Bourem, participants highlighted disputes over inheritances, including the lack of access by women to inheritance of land. In Ouattagouna, the wandering of animals along the river was source of recurrent tensions. In Kidal, water points and grazing areas constitute the main problems for a rural economy based on livestock. Finally, in

“This is the first time I participate in a meeting on the use of Islam values against extremism. We are living in an extremely difficult context characterized by new religious interpretations tending towards the disproportionate use of violence. These have led to fanaticism, to the promotion of violent extremism whose forces unfortunately attract our young people. This dialogue is welcome by all our citizens.”

Baba, a participant from Tarkint

Agouni and Touwal, the exclusion of young people in management bodies has a negative effect on the development of their social leadership. To follow up on the meetings, the young people decided to carry out awareness campaigns through community radio stations. The elders pledged to increase youth involvement in order to build their capacity in the management of local conflicts and to develop their sense of social leadership.

The dialogues in Anderamboukane, Soboundou and Tarkint addressed fighting violent extremism through the tradition and precepts of Islam. According to the elders, children are raised in line with the values of humanism, tolerance, mutual aid and protection in the Muslim tradition. The dialogues concluded with the commitment by the youth to carry out awareness campaigns on radios against the recruitment of youth in armed groups.

In Ber and Dire, the dialogues focused on the misuse of social networks and the failure of parents and the educational systems to contain the dissemination of foreign values through new technologies. It was noted that everything has the potential to be both good and bad, including technology. The elders explained that today’s young people have been greatly influenced by “modern traditions” conveyed by the internet and that it is important to not lose one’s identity in what is online. In terms of immediate follow-up actions, the young people decided to ask the graduate from the Mali PSR tech camps to train them on the responsible use of social networks.

“We are witnessing the loss of identity unity, which is why this dialogue is useful today. It is useful to involve young people in the debate about who we are, what we do, what our values are. For us elders, the most important thing is to be able to build with these generations.”

Bilal, a participant from Tessalit

The elders committed to participating in these trainings in order to give the necessary guidance and advice for the use of new technologies in concert with local customs.

IR 3.2: Strengthening young people's resilience to violent extremism through family and community support.

Youth Advocacy Initiatives

Many young people believe that the only way to advocate for rights and services is through force, a pattern that contributes to a recurrence of community conflicts. To lead young people towards more sustainable and peaceful means of reaching their goals, Mali PSR trained 51 participants, including 10 men, 1 woman, 40 youth in nonviolent advocacy strategies in the communes of Bandiagara and Matomo.



Participants at the advocacy workshop in Matomo

"Before [this training], we thought that we should assert our rights through violence. However, our cultural values do not allow us to engage in certain practices. That is why we have often remained inactive despite existing demands. With this new approach, we will more active in addressing certain situations. On behalf of all participants, I would like to thank the project for this great initiative. We will now strengthen our participation in the development of our commune."

Koro, a participant from Matomo

Facilitated by the Mali PSR team, the objectives of the training were to define advocacy concepts and the steps and components of an advocacy plan. The trainings concluded with the drafting of an advocacy plan on a theme identified by the participants. The Matomo advocacy plan focused on restoring educational activities to promote the right to education (due to low allocation of teachers in some villages, classroom learning has been inconsistent). In Bandiagara, the plan centered on the creation of water points for the market gardening

activities of the commune. Mali PSR will work with the youth to implement these plans which they believe will contribute to their communities' development and social cohesion.

Youth Cafes

Following youth's participation in PSR sponsored as well as the Tech Camps, E-grins and E-tontines, and training in advocacy techniques conducted by Mali PSR during Year 2 of the program, it became clear that young people have both great capacity and interest in raising awareness on the issues that matter to them, in person or virtually among their peers. To capitalize on these skills and interests, Mali PSR organized virtual Youth Cafes in eight (8) communes²⁰ to provide youth with the space to address critical issues in their communes. A total of 107 participants, including 24 people in the North (6 men, 2 women and 16 youth) and 83 in the Center (18 men, 3 women and 62 youth) attended on-line. The purpose of these Cafes was to encourage youth to identify challenges in their own communities, and then work together to develop solutions or next steps to raise awareness or advocate for change. Examples include:

²⁰ Bandiagara, Bankass, Douentza, Djenne, Koro, Markala, Kidal and Essouk

- In Markala, the discussions focused on access to funds to support youth entrepreneurship from the Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment (APEJ) through the microfinance Nyèssiguissou fund. Following the Cafe, Bakary explained, *"This activity has been invaluable. Fifteen days after this activity, I was awarded 400 000 F CFA to kick off my retail trade of diapers, clothes and shoes for women. "*
- In Douentza, youth committed to advocating with administrative authorities to facilitate IDP return and to organizing discussions between community groups and with local officials to facilitate their reintegration.
- In Bandiagara, discussions centered around creating a dialogue between defense forces and civilians to create the conditions for enhanced collective security. Youth and members of the CEC began to identify the leadership roles (political, religious, military) that would need to be brought in to advance this effort and began outreach to religious leaders.
- In Djenne, youth developed innovative ideas and actions around reviving tourism to boost the local economy, including revitalizing cultural events and festivals and using social networks to attract tourism.
- In Kidal, young people debated their representation within the Algiers Peace Agreement process. Participants generally felt that young people are not sufficiently represented in the structures in charge of monitoring and evaluation, including the agreement monitoring committee and that it does not take young people's perspectives into account.

International Women's Day and CVE

On March 8th, Mali PSR celebrated International Women's Day in nine (9) communes.²¹ Activities included debates, theatrical performances, blood donations, a soccer game and visits to provide non-food items to IDP camps in support of women in the commune. As part of each event, community members discussed issues related to women's roles in the community and made recommendations that would strengthen their leadership and/or participation in countering extremism. A total of 446 people attended, including 266 people in the Center (38 men, 195 women, 33 young people) and 180 in the North (34 men, 86 women, 60 young people).

"International Women's Day is important because it commemorates the efforts of women in the struggle for gender equality. It is an opportunity for us to claim our rights. I hope that women will participate in the reconstruction of the country. Women are an essential link in building peace. They are mothers, wives, sisters, and sensitive to the pain of others. Today's activities allowed me to understand that women's struggle has only just begun."

Adizatou, a participant from Ménaka

²¹ Bankass, Diabaly, Koro, Macina, Markala, Ménaka, Gao, Ansongo and Bourem

Across the communes, women highlighted they are often the first victims of violence, which affects them in unique ways, but are not involved in the decision-making processes to address this violence. One example given by a Woman’s Day participant was that besides the fear of physical harm, violence can lead to a loss of economic independence and increased vulnerability when weekly markets and fairs close or become too dangerous for women to participate in, which in turn can lead to a social imbalance in the home because women no longer contribute to household expenses. The women stressed that they can and should be allowed to lead conflict management initiatives.

"Women are aware of their role in promoting peace. What is sad is the violence that women suffer during and after conflicts. A woman is not a toy. If a woman is abused and does not denounce it, she is also guilty of whatever happens to her. We must fight for our human rights. Additionally, there are always men who think that women are incapable of succeeding in positions of responsibility. We both have the same intelligence. For them, women must only submit."

Rebecca, a participant from Koro

Another key area of concern for women was Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and the consequences of marginalization. Participants noted that women are dependent on and often relegated behind men even when they are seeking independence; being a woman makes it harder

to own land, receive training for income generating activities, gain leadership positions, and more. This dependence and marginalization make women vulnerable to GBV—physical, emotional and sexual violence and early marriage.

The US Embassy selected the story of Diane Sididi, a Mali PSR grantee, for the social media campaign celebrating women in the month of March. During Year 2, Mali PSR awarded a grant to Derhane, led by Diane, to promote the participation of people living with disabilities in the development of the PDSEC.



Objective 4: Impact of COVID-19 and the Associated Second Order Effects on Malian Communities Mitigated

4.1: Mitigate the immediate impacts of COVID-19 on Mali PSR partner communes – rapid response.

Understand to Withstand COVID-19.

An additional component of the *Understand to Withstand* campaign, the #MaliYouth2Youth COVID-19 early warning messages, was approved this quarter by USAID and the National Center for Information, Education and Health Communication (CNIECS). A total of 1,065 messages on COVID-19 protective measures were posted by the youth grantees on social media and aired on the radio. The types of messages broadcast include how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19, where to find accurate information about the pandemic, words of encouragement and unity in the face of COVID-19, and calls to spread the word on COVID-19.

In an effort to reach even more citizens with COVID-19 messaging, a slam poem video in French and Bambara was broadcast on radio networks in the Center (in 20 communes in Segou and Mopti) and nationally on television. Radio stations in the communes of Gao and Tombouctou will broadcast the slam poem in the coming weeks. The two-minute video, specifically directed at young people, provides accurate information about the virus, modes of transmission, and preventative/protective measures.

Coordination meetings to address non-health needs around COVID-19.



COVID-19 sensitization event in Segou

Within the reporting period, Mali PSR held meetings in 10 communes²² with local COVID-19 commissions to identify non-medical needs related to and arising from the pandemic. The discussions during the meetings highlighted the need to provide accurate information about modes of transmission of COVID-19 and preventative measures. A total of 266 people, including 175 men, 54 women and 37 young people (156 in the Center including 92 men, 38 women and 26

young people; 110 participants in the North including 83 men, 16 women and 10 young people), participated and stressed the need for additional handwashing stations, hydroalcoholic gel and soap at the household level.

The participants at the coordination meetings made the following recommendations:

²² Ansongo, Tessalit, Ouattagouna and Menaka in the North; Bandiagara, Bankass, Djenné, Douentza, Markala and Segou.

- Conduct COVID-19 awareness radio messages in local languages;
- Sensitize religious leaders to respect distancing measures in mosques;
- Provide additional COVID-19 handwashing stations, hydroalcoholic gels and soap at strategic locations such as markets and bus stations in each commune;
- Provide thermometers and COVID-19 test kits in health centers;
- Organize debates in schools and training for teachers on COVID-19;
- Train youth to conduct sensitization sessions on COVID-19 protective measures; and
- Identify and support people, particularly women, who are victims of COVID-19, including petty traders and those who live off remittances, by initiating new income generating activities or any new program to strengthen their resilience.

4.2: Mitigate the immediate impacts of COVID-19 on communes in Bamako, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Kayes, and other areas nationwide.

Political economy analysis

Mali PSR contracted the West African Network for Peacebuilding to conduct a political economy analysis (PEA) in Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso and Bamako. This analysis will not only enable Mali PSR to develop context appropriate activities but will also shed light on emerging issues around the pandemic in these four localities.

The PEA was carried out through a mixed methods approach, which enabled the researchers to analyze the cultural, political and community dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as short, medium and long-term effects which may have an effect on Mali PSR programming.

The analysis found that the closure of public gathering spaces, such as schools, restaurants, cinemas, nightclubs, and the prioritization of COVID-19 patients in hospitals, have generated a sense of insecurity. The stress and frustration of communities due to trade and travel

restrictions has led to the development of survival mechanisms in some communities that are conducive to criminal activity. Unsatisfactory management of the pandemic has had an impact on the psychosocial well-being of vulnerable communities.

In a context of cyclical instability and conflict which has weakened the state, the resilience of the population, and access to basic social services, the pandemic has added an additional burden on the state and on citizens. The delivery of social services has changed significantly: schools have been closed, diseases other than those related to COVID-19 have been neglected, and the technical capacity of health facilities is barely able to contain the cases related to the pandemic.

“Because of the pandemic, schools have been closed for a long time, drug prescriptions are expensive because of the poverty and unemployment caused by the pandemic. Water is supplied but people are struggling to pay the water bills... and rent poses a problem for those who have become unemployed due to COVID-19, such as us teachers in the private sector.”
A citizen from Koulikoro interviewed for the report

Although the analysis was completed later than originally planned, the program plans to use its findings to pilot how the sharp decline in remittances can be addressed via multi-purpose cash transfers to those impacted by the second order effects of COVID-19.

The final PEA report is under Creative HQ review and will be available in Quarter 3.

One Health Platform Coordination Meetings

Mali PSR participated in the Sikasso regional One Health coordination meeting on February 26 at the regional health directorate and in two COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee meetings held on February 10th and 15th at the Ministry of Health chaired by the One Health platform in Bamako. The meetings served as the venue for the Government of Mali to review and approve partners' COVID-19 activities; to improve coordination between partners operating in the same localities; and to develop joint strategies for responding to soaring COVID-19 cases in hotspots around the country.



COVID-19 sensitization materials developed by grantee PROMODEF

Partner Outreach

Mali PSR conducted four partner outreach and orientation sessions on the program's grant process for 45 organizations from the regions of Timbuktu and Mopti as potential partners for COVID-19 programming. During the meetings, Mali PSR described the grants process and criteria for application in order to support the development of future proposals. Mali PSR issued calls for proposals in Mopti on March 19th with expiry date of April 19th, 2021.

Co-design grants with Malian organizations

During the reporting period, 13 organizations in Sikasso submitted applications to participate in a co-design process with Mali PSR. Of the five applications which were preselected to submit proposals, only one had a potentially viable activity that met USAID/Mali guidance and the stated objectives of the Request for Proposals.²³ Program staff continued the co-design process with this organization throughout the quarter to strengthen the design and scope of the proposed activity. Mali PSR anticipates submitting the application to USAID for approval in Quarter 3.

While the technical team also conducted a first review and evaluation for the 11 proposals submitted by organizations in Bamako, due to the shift in USAID priorities for Mali PSR, this solicitation will be cancelled.

²³ Most organizations submitted agriculture projects. As such, Mali PSR could not award grants in the agriculture/economic growth sector.

Countering Mis/Dis-Information

Through its partnership with Moonshot CVE, the program trained 23 youth, two (2) representatives from CNEICS, one (1) from the *Agence Nationale de Télé-santé et d'Informatique Médicale* and one (1) from USAID/Mali lead health partner Breakthrough Action on detecting and verifying mis/disinformation online. Initially included as part of the Mali PSR crisis modifier response to the pandemic, the four-day event provided an introductory training on how to identify misinformation/rumors and counter misinformation using positive social narratives, including those from violent extremist organizations. By the end of the training, participants developed knowledge, skills and capacity to utilize online techniques and tools to verify information and to create evidence-based digital messaging campaigns to counter misinformation.



Participants at the misinformation training

During the sessions, Moonshot CVE provided participants with lessons and interactive engagement around the following topics:

- Introduction to misinformation
- The fundamentals of cybersecurity
- Introduction to fact checking
- Open sources intelligence tools
- Open sources information
- Persuasion techniques and digital campaigns
- How to analyze the target audience
- Emotional dimension and narration
- Framing and demystifying misinformation
- Content creation
- Targeting methods
- Risks management and online safety

The training provided an opportunity to deepen the skills of some of the youth who had previously participated in the Tech Camps and provided others with more technical knowledge to improve their social media engagement both personally and professionally.

“I currently work to address rumor management within CНИЕCS pending the creation of rumor management unit. Once this structure is set up, we will work with our partners to collectively manage rumors that undermine our health policies. The new tools by Moonshot CVE will therefore be used to strengthen the national system for managing rumors and capacity of our network of bloggers, and other social media users.”

A civil servant at the CНИЕCS

“This training allowed us to differentiate between disinformation, misinformation and malicious information. Misinformation is disseminated by someone who believes they are spreading good information. This is the case with many Internet users who share publications without trying to understand or verifying the source. They blindly believe everything that is said/displayed on social networks. Once I return to Segou, I will apply the instructions for checking and publishing the right information, especially on the prevention of COVID -19. With the other bloggers, we will play an important role in influencing communities on social networks.”

A blogger in Ségou

4.3. Prepare for and mitigate the second order effects of COVID-19.

Commune Council Open Hearings

Mali PSR supported town hall meetings and open council hearings in nine communes²⁴ attended by 526 participants, for citizens to air concerns about COVID-19 service delivery and to propose solutions. Several concerns related to the economic effects of the pandemic were raised and citizens urged the commune councils to establish a support mechanism for the economic actors whose livelihoods have been affected as a result of COVID-19. Recommendations from these hearings also included improving information exchange between technical services, citizens, traditional authorities, and elected officials; developing a framework for consultation and information dissemination to improve coordination and communication; and finding alternatives to make up the time lost by students, an activity Mali PSR will begin in Quarter 3 through the organization of remedial courses.

V. CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

As noted in the context section, the security context remains a challenge. Regular attacks by armed groups into some Mali PSR communes²⁵ have made implementation in these areas more challenging this quarter and potentially dangerous for staff and beneficiaries. Checkpoints are common in some communes in the Mopti region such as Dinangourou, Ouenkoro, Douentza,

²⁴ The meetings were held in the communes of Yorosso and Kadiolo in Sikasso region; Achamour in Tombouctou region; Segou, Niono and Macina in Segou region; Djenné, Tenenkou and Youwarou in Mopti region.

²⁵ Tessit, Menaka, Anderamboukane, Ouattagouna, Bamba, Bourem, Ber, and Soboundou.

Youwarou and Tenenkou communes, which has made reaching population centers in these communes difficult.

COVID-19 also continues to be a constraint impacting the implementation of Mali PSR. Program staff continued to work remotely during the quarter and staff travel was also limited. Participatory activities are limited by order of the GOM to fewer than 50 people.²⁶ Mali PSR also ensures that the participants in its activities wear masks and follow social distancing protocols.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During the quarter, the Mali PSR M&E conducted routine monitoring but also supported the annual Data Quality Assessment (DQA) of 10 program performance indicators by USAID/Mali. Other activities during this period included the on-going collaboration with the University of California, Los Angeles and the USAID/Mali mission to finalize the parameters of an impact evaluation on reintegration and reconciliation that will be conducted in the center and north regions of the country. A joint M&E-grants-operations team was deployed to conduct site visits to current grantees and to follow-up on closed grant activities in Segou and Mopti. One of the goals of the mission was to improve program learning and understanding about the contributions of grant activities to the program's intermediate results and long-term impact.

Data Quality Assessment

Each year, USAID assesses a number of indicators being monitored by the program to ensure that the data generated from the Mali PSR MEL system meets the validity, integrity, accuracy, reliability and timeliness standards in the program's approved AMELP plan. USAID assessed 10 program performance indicators, two from Crisis Modifier programming and eight related to core Objectives 1-3. These were:

- Number of people reached through USAID-supported mass media with COVID-19-related risk communication messaging, including social media (MJP, CEP, PSR)- **Crisis Modifier**;
- Number of mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication about COVID-19 with affected communities, supported by USAID (MJP, CEP, PSR) - **Crisis Modifier**;
- Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of the conflict- **PSR PS.6.2-1**;
- Number of USG supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation among key actors to the conflict – **PSR PS.6.2-3**;
- Number of projects with primary objective of building resilience among communities most at risk of recruitment and radicalization to violence. Note: this is the stated goal of LAFIA in the South of Mali communities where it operates – **PSR PS.1.2-4**;
- Number of local women participating in substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance – **PSR GNDR-10**;
- Number of youth trained in social or leadership skills through USG assisted programs (USAID PMP - YOUTH I INDICATOR) – **PSR YOUTH-I**;

²⁶ Activities described in the technical implementation section of this report that show participation numbers over 50 either occur in multiple locations or across multiple days to abide by this mandate

- Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation – **PSR PS.6.2-4**;
- Number of USG-funded events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation on a mass scale – **PSR PS.6.2-2**;
- Number of individuals receiving civic education through USG-assisted programs (Output, Standard USG)- **PSR DR.3.2-5**.

The Mali PSR team is awaiting the outcome and recommendations stemming from this DQA to make further refinements to its MEL processes and activities moving forward.

Joint Grant/M&E Activity Monitoring Mission

From February 28th - March 8th, 2021, a monitoring team comprised of the Mali DCOP-Operations, Grant Manager, MEL Manager and MEL Officer carried out a joint mission to monitor how grant activities are coming and how they have or are contributing to program results. The team assessed the implementation of the activities defined in grantees' proposals and in their activity plans in accordance with the signed agreements. The Mali PSR team met with nine (9) grantees²⁷ in the regions of Segou, (Niono, Markala, Matomo, Pelengana) and Mopti (Djenne, Mopti, Bankass and Koro) and some of their beneficiaries using pre-established interview guides.

Overall, the beneficiaries felt their knowledge related to social cohesion and conflict management has, for the most part, improved because of the grant activities. One female participant in Bankass noted: *"I have learned through these activities that we are interdependent and must understand each other if we really want to encourage the sustainable development of our commune and also prepare the future of our children which is uncertain because of insecurity. Thanks to my participation in these activities, I have led efforts to raise awareness among women's groups of the importance of coexistence and social cohesion."*

Another young man who participated in ODI Sahel activities in Djenné said: *"We have undertaken many awareness sessions in the commune to promote social cohesion, leadership and violent extremism. During our last Kermesse (cultural event) from January 24th to 30th, 2021, our themes focused on violent extremism, and all the neighborhoods presented at least one skit."* Also in Djenné, youth who participated in the activities carried out dialogues between young people and older people to address disagreements over various community problems.

Based on the findings from this monitoring mission, the Mali PSR team recommended that future grants integrate program monitoring visits into grant milestones to ensure timely and frequent supervision and structure grant awards that can consistently respond to two or three Mali PSR indicators including at least one Output and one Outcome.

The main recommendations made by the beneficiaries are to:

²⁷ Association Bonne Nutrition et Appui aux Initiatives de Développement des Jeunes; Terre d'Afrique; Association pour la Santé et l'Éducation Communautaire; Association pour la Promotion Juridico-Economique de la Femme et de l'Enfant; Association pour le Renforcement des Capacités des Communes (Segou); Organisation pour un Développement Intégré au Sahel; Association pour le Développement Actif et Participatif; Association Malienne Pour le Soutien Aux Associations et Coopératives; ONG GRAD-COM.

- Support vocational training and in income-generating activities targeting youth such as carpentry, plumbing, mechanics, electricity, among others, to combat youth participation in extremist groups;
- Organize inclusive community dialogues in order to achieve lasting peace;
- Raise awareness among community leaders (traditional and religious) to accept women's participation in peace-building processes;
- Educate/encourage women to be involved in activities that are seen as purely patriarchal (such as dialogue activities under the vestibule) to show that they are capable and valuable in the peacebuilding process; and
- Ensure the safety of community leaders in their mission of reconciliation and dialogue between communities.

Routine Monitoring

Routine monitoring of Mali PSR activities continued with community coordinators regularly recording key metrics on field activities with support from the MEL virtual team in data entry. Additionally, the Mali PSR MEL team distinguishes between direct implementation and grant activities in order to better track grantee outputs and outcomes. Information from this data compilation showed that 8,234 people were reached during Q2 through grants, including 4,438 men and 3,796 women. During this reporting period, grant activities accounted for the majority of Mali PSR participants: 75% of participants were engaged through grant activities vs. 25% engaged through direct implementation by CECs. Additionally, more youth were reached through grant activities than in direct implementation activities.²⁸ The differences can be explained by the fact that grantees conducted a large number of mass scale activities.

A number of data visualization graphics that describe and summarize the activities undertaken in Quarter 2 are found in Annex 5.

VII. GRANTS

During the past quarter, Mali PSR did not award any new grants, it completed six (6) grants and terminated one award. Proposals are under review for the COVID-19 Request for Proposals for the Sikasso and Kayes regions.

On February 19th, 2021, Mali PSR cancelled the grant to Tama Sira for activities in the commune of Togue-Mourari. While Mali PSR expected to gain access to this commune through the grantee organization, the program team was unable to conduct due diligence during the implementation of the activities because armed groups prevented entry to the commune. Mali PSR did meet with several individuals in Djenne who had participated in the launch of the grant, and the mayor of the commune provided an attestation of the work done by the grantee.

See Annex 4 for a table of grants that were underway in Quarter 2 of FY2021.

²⁸ 69% of participants in grant activities were youth vs. 22% of participants in directly implemented activities

VIII. OPERATIONS

Staff Movement

During the past quarter, notable staff changes for Mali PSR included the departure of the Governance Objective Lead, Ali Dama, on February 28, 2021; the Senior COVID-19 MEL Manager, Hamadoun Bocoum on February 20, 2021; the MEL Manager, Moctar Cisse, on March 10, 2021; and the Finance Administrator, Abdoulaye Kassambara, on March 19, 2021. Mali PSR posted vacancy announcements for the following positions, to be filled in Quarter 3:

- Governance Objective Lead
- MEL Director
- MEL Officer (2 positions)
- Communications and Reporting Specialist
- Procurement Officer
- Finance Administrator

Teleworking

Following a spike in COVID-19 cases, identified as Mali's third wave, Mali PSR staff continue to work from home, a posture the Chief of Party, Security Manager, and Regional Security Manager have agreed will remain in place until transmission rates decrease and/or stabilize, coupled with the roll out of vaccinations.

IX. SEQUENCING LAYERING AND INTEGRATION

Mali PSR continued efforts in Sequencing, Layering and Integration its activities by capitalizing on partnerships established by other USAID implementing partners such as the CEP and MJP to strengthen good governance and access to justice. The program also explored partnerships with government entities to launch early warning/early response at the commune level, counter violent extremism and support the transition government in efforts to stabilize North and Central Mali.

During the USG assessment missions to Timbuktu (January 25) and Gao (February 17), Mali PSR presented key achievements to regional officials and representatives of MINUSMA and other actors working in these regions in order to identify areas of key concern and interest related to the transition and to identify potential areas for collaboration and synergy as the program pivots to support Mali's political transition.

On February 5th, the Mali PSR COR, the director of consortium partner ThinkPeace, and Mali PSR staff briefed the Minister of Religious Affairs and explored opportunities for partnership with youth trained to detect and verify mis/disinformation online in the Ministry's efforts to address online extremist narratives. This quarter, 23 young people collaborating with three USAID/Mali democracy and governance programs, were trained by Mali PSR's partner Moonshot CVE.

To strengthen national ownership, Mali PSR provided an update to the CNAP on the ongoing technical assistance provided by FFP to pilot a commune-level early warning and response system in the program's intervention zones on February 18th. The Mali PSR-proposed EWER strategy is aligned with the larger CNAP coordination of early warning and response in Mali.

The Mali PSR team presented its 2019-2020 annual report and key activities for Year 2 to its line ministry, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MTAD) on March 11th, 2021. In attendance were the US Ambassador, USAID Mission Director, COR and Alternate COR, Mali PSR consortium directors and staff. The presentations provided opportunities for discussions on progress towards program planned results as well as opportunities for further contribution to the implementation of the Algiers Peace Accord during the political transition that is expected to end in 2022.

The strong partnership between Mali PSR (through its national partners AMSS and ThinkPeace) and the ADRs was critical in the development of six PDSEC during the quarter. This partnership anchored by regional government entities and two national partners also enabled joint, on-the-ground action during dialogues between elected officials, citizens and private sector in support of the PDSEC implementation.

Finally, given the success of the CEP Multi-Actor Groups and *Comités de Suivi* in advancing citizen-government confidence and joint actions, Mali PSR worked with the USAID/Civic Engagement Program to promote good governance, and the Mali Justice Project in expanding access to justice, a key driver of conflicts. Further details of these partnerships and joint activities are detailed under Objective 1.

X. SUBSEQUENT QUARTERS PLAN

As detailed in the approved Year 3 Workplan, Mali PSR will implement the following activities under Objectives 1-4 during the third quarter of FY2021. Additionally, USAID/Mali made a formal request to Creative to modify Objective 4.3, which was previously aimed at supporting the second order effects of COVID-19 to now include a focus on support to Mali's democratic political transition. In response to this request, Mali PSR will begin to plan and roll-out new activities that complement several interventions under Objectives 1 – 3 and to provide more dedicated support to Mali's upcoming elections under Objective 4. A key first step in advancing this new direction will be to make adaptations to the Mali PSR's Year 3 workplan and the Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan. Additional activities planned under 4.3 are detailed below.

Objective 1:

- With the support of Mali PSR partner, Fund for Peace, the program will continue to roll out the Early Warning/Early Response (EWER) initiative, with the identification of focal points, provision of EWER training, and a pilot of the tools and processes in the 10 pilot communes.²⁹
- Also in Quarter 3, Mali PSR will document and disseminate best practices in conflict management and mitigation (CMM) through CECs, local officials and grant recipients, and it will develop and implement local grievance response plans that incorporate CMM best practices.

²⁹ Markala, Ségué, Ségou, Ouenkoro, Tenenkou, Agouni, Alata, Sony Ali Ber, Ber and Bamba.

- Additionally, Mali PSR intends to implement psychosocial preparedness training and complementary activities to strengthen community support networks for GBV survivors and returnees.
- Finally, the program will continue to partner with USAID/CEP and Mali Justice Project to conduct trainings on the Pastoral Charter and Agricultural Orientation Law and map justice leaders.

Objective 2:

- Mali PSR will fund ADRs to conduct training of local elected officials as part of the PDSEC participatory process and cover the costs associated with the organization of the annual restitution of the administrative accounts. The program will further support local municipalities to develop funding plans for the implementation of PDSECs and the to finalize the PDSECs of the remaining eight (8) target communes³⁰ in Gao, six (6) communes in Timbuktu³¹ and five (5) communes in Segou.³² Finally, Mali PSR plans to train local CSOs/CBOs to monitor the implementation of PDSECs.
- Mali PSR will continue to organize tripartite dialogue between elected officials, citizens and the private sector.
- Finally, in Quarter 3 Mali PSR will undertake the data collection and initial drafting of White Papers, including one related to disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration.

Objective 3:

- Mali PSR will train 120 young people in entrepreneurship, and subsequently provide them with required technical and financial support to start their business.
- The program will assist youth in developing advocacy skills to constructively and peacefully engage decisionmakers and participate in the civic affairs of their communities.
- Finally, Mali PSR will continue to provide space for youth to discuss critical issues facing their communes and propose solutions through online Youth Cafes.

Objective 4:

- In an effort to support activities that address the second-order effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mali PSR will work with school districts of 10 communes to offer remedial courses for students who have been out of school due to COVID-19 restrictions to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared for the final exams.
- Mali PSR will also fund through a grant to Mercy Corps an activity to support families in the south of Mali who have been impacted by the decline in remittance payments due to reduced income of workers abroad as a result of the pandemic.
- Mali PSR also anticipates that activities related to the Democratic Political Transition will begin in Quarter 3 under the updated scope of work for the Crisis Modifier. Activities will be developed in consultation with USAID/Mali related to light infrastructure to mitigate conflict and enhance local development, strategic communications assistance related to the Algiers Peace Accord, and targeted political process support/programmatic gap filling related to the political transition and election.

³⁰ Ansongo, Bamba, Tessit, Bourem, Soni Ali Ber, Gao, Tarkint and Ouattagouna.

³¹ Ber, Bourem-Inaly, Timbuktu, Dire, Goundam and Soboundou.

³² Pelengana, Niono, Diabaly, urban commune of Segou and Matomo

ANNEX I : MAPPING OF STATE AND COMMUNITY STRUCTURES

Commune	Name	Services Provided
State (35)		
Ménaka	Direction régionale de la promotion de la femme de l'enfant et de la famille (DRPFEF)	Counseling, referral, training and advocacy.
	Direction régionale du développement social et de l'économie solidaire (DRDSES)	Counseling, referral, training and advocacy and food assistance
	Centre de santé de référence (Csref)	Medical Assistance and referral to other health facilities
	Service local du développement social et de l'économie solidaire (SLDSES)	Counseling, referral, training and advocacy and food assistance
	Service local de la promotion de la femme de l'enfant et de la famille (SLPFEF)	Counseling, referral, training and advocacy and food assistance
	Police	Protection, counselling, investigation and referral.
	Gendarmerie	Protection, counselling, investigation and referral.
Kidal	Direction du développement Social	Social reinsertion, cash donation to vulnerable persons
Kidal	Direction de la promotion de la Femme de l'enfant et de la famille	Sensitization on child abuse and gender-based violence
Bourem	Développement Social (Service local)	Food security, protection, assistance
Ménaka, Alata, Anderamboukane,	Commission vérité justice et réconciliation CVJR	Counselling, legal assistance, referral référencement
Gao	D.R.P.F.E. F	Protection

Ansongo	Développement Social	Protection
Konna	Commission Locale d'Appui à la Réconciliation	Referral/orientation of victims
Djenné	Développement Social	Counseling/referral of victims, IDPs and refugees.
Douentza	développement Social	Counseling/assistance to victims, IDPs and refugees
Mopti	CVJR (Commission Vérité Justice et Réconciliation)	Registration/referral and counseling
	Direction Régionale du développement social et de l'Economie Solidaire	Counseling/assistance to victims, IDPs and refugees
	ERAR (Equipe Régionale d'Appui à la Réconciliation)	Registration of victims, referral
Pelengana	Développement social	Food assistance
Segou	Direction régionale de la promotion de la femme, de l'enfant et de la famille	Support to displaced women and children
Segou	CVJR	Access to justice
Segou	Développement social	Food assistance
Tenenkou	Promotion de la femme, de l'enfant et la famille	Registration of victims, referral
Tenenkou	développement social	Registration of victims, assistance to IDPs and refugees (food and non-food), referral
Youwarou	développement social	Registration of victims, assistance to IDPs and refugees (food and non-food), referral
Youwarou	CSREF	Health assistance to victims
Niono	CVJR	Access to justice
Niono	Développement social	Food assistance
Pelengana	CVJR	Access to justice
Pelengana	Développement social	Food assistance

Dioungani, Koro Dinangourou	Développement social	Mobilisation and counseling
Dioungani, Koro, Dinangourou	Promotion de la femme, de l'enfant et de la famille	Mobilisation and counseling
Bandiagara	développement social	Registration of victims, assistance to IDPs and refugees (food and non-food), referral
Community-based (3)		
Bourem	Comite Local de Protection	Protection
Soni Ali Ber	Local protection committee	Protection
Mopti	TRIJEUD (Tribune des Jeunes pour le Droit)	Sensitization on human rights, counseling and referral
Non-Governmental Organizations (62)		
Ménaka, Anderamboukane	IRC	Psychosocial care, transportation and medical assistance
Ménaka	AMSS	Case management, psychosocial support, médical/légal assistance
Ménaka	GREFFA	Réinsertion, medical assistance, training
Ménaka, Anderamboukane	TARAKAT	Sensitization on family planning and early marriage
Ménaka, Anderamboukane,	GARDL	Psychosocial support, counseling and orientation
Ménaka, alata, Anderamboukane,	MdM BE	Medical assistance and referral
Kidal	SOLISA-UNICEF	Psychosocial/medical care, accommodation in host families, counseling, food assistance
Kidal	SOLISA-AEN	Gender-based violence
Kidal-Anefig	MSF	Psychosocial care, referral, protection

Kidal-Tessalit-Anefif	CICR	Psychosocial care, protection
Kidal-Aguelhoc	AEDS	Social reinsertion, psychological care,
Tessalit-Kidal	EFFAD	Sensitization on GBV
Kidal	AMSS	Identification of vulnerable persons, protection
Bamba	GARDL	Protection, social cohesion
Gao	GREFFA	Counseling, referral and economic support
	TSF	Protection
	WILDAF	Protection
	HELP	Counseling, referral and economic support
	DEMESSO	Protection
	AMSS	Protection
	CIAUD CANADA	Protection
	STOP SAHEL	Protection
	HED TAMAT	Protection
	DRC	Protection
	NRC	Protection
Ansongo	AMSS	Protection
	COMITE DE PROTECTION	Protection
	MSF	Protection
	IRC	Protection
Tessit	HED TAMAT	Protection
	AMSS	Protection
	CARD	Protection
	PREMIERE URGENCE	Protection
	OIM	Protection
	WANEP MALI	Protection

Ouattagouna	TASSAGH	Protection
	CARD	Protection
	IRC	Protection
	GRIDEV	Protection
Macina	COOPI	Psycho-social assistance to IDPs and victims of war
	ENDA MALI	Health, food and psycho-social assistance to children in mobility situations on the main migration routes
	Alerte Internationale	Conflict Prevention and Management
Markala/Macina	Terres des hommes	Health care for war displaced people
Markala	ASDAP	Sensitization on GBV
Markala et Macina	Terres des hommes	Health assistance to IDPs
Markala	ASDAP	Sensitization on GBV
	NRC Conseil norvégien pour les réfugiés	Assistance (food and non-food items)
	World Vision	Prevention, referral, assistance (food and non-food items) to IDPs.
	YAG-TU	Food assistance
	DRC	Health and psycho-social support, GBV prevention, counseling, referral
Dioungani, Koro Dinangourou	COOPI	Prevention and assistance to children
	IAMANEH MALI	Health, psycho-social, psychological and economic support to victims, referral.
	CRS	Assistance (food and non-food items)

	ACTED	Support for the care of malnourished children, primary health care through the mobile clinic in inaccessible health areas.
	CSPEEDA	Social reinsertion
	AMCP/SP alliance mondiale contre le paludisme	Social reinsertion
Tenenkou	Association Yeredeme II	Sensitization, mobilisation
	Association Golore	Sensitization, mobilisation
	Seynide	Sensitization, mobilisation
Bandiagara	CSREF	Health Assistance to victims
	ARDC (Association pour la Reconnaissance des Droit et Devoir des Citoyens)	Sensitization, advocacy
	APAF (Association de Promotion des activités Féminin)	Sensitization, mobilization, referral (GBV)

ANNEX 2 : INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE THEMES

	Commune	Theme
1	Djenné	Youth participation in family decision-making
2	Macina	Community mechanisms in conflict management and the fight against violent extremism
3	Ouenkoro	How can young people contribute to influential people in the restoration of cohesion?
4	Segué	The societal virtues of marriage: what impact on reducing domestic violence?
5	Bourem	Types of land legacy conflicts
6	Tarkint	Islam's place in the fight against violent extremism
7	Tessalit	Peaceful coexistence between communities and strategy to avoid community conflicts
8	Ouattagouna	Types of conflicts in the villages of Fafa, Bentia and Labezenga around the market gardening and their management
9	Anderamboukane	How to combat the recruitment of young people into non-state armed groups
10	Kidal	Types of conflict in Kidal communities, prevention and management
11	Bamba	The place of traditional religious, political and other legitimacy in the peaceful management of conflicts
12	Soboundou	The impact of young people enrolment into armed groups on coexistence
13	Diré	The failure of education due to excessive dissemination of foreign values on social media
14	Konna	La gestion des équipements publics marchandes en temps de crise
15	Ber	Education failure due to excessive dissemination of foreign values via new technologies (social media)
16	Touwal	La marginalisation sociale des jeunes dans les instances traditionnelles et communales de gestion des affaires locales Youth social marginalization in management of local affairs
17	Agouni	Local youth leadership and engagement in their communities

ANNEX 3: YOUTH CAFE THEMES

	Commune	Theme
1	Djenné	The revival of tourism to boost the local economy
2	Douentza	Support the return of IDPs.
3	Markala	Access to entrepreneurship funds through the Ngéssiguissou microfinance of Markala.
4	Bandiagara	Collaboration and dialogue between youth and security forces for a better governance of security
5	Koro	Risks and management of IED.
6	Bankass	Importance of the payment of local and regional taxes
7	Kidal	Youth role in the implementation of the Algiers Peace Agreement
8	Anefif	How to mobilize young people to exercise citizen control over public action

ANNEX 4: GRANTS IMPLEMENTED IN Q2 FY2021

	REGION	GRANTEE NAME	TITLE OF ACTIVITY	AMONT USD	STATUS
1	Tombouctou	ONG TANMINAK	Project to build the capacity of young people in citizenship in order to promote living together in the urban commune of Timbuktu	\$28,522	Ongoing activities
2		Abdrmane Abdoulaye	PSR Youth2Youth	\$857	Ongoing activities
3		Soumaila Alidji	PSR Youth2Youth	\$209	Ongoing activities
4		Younssou CISSE	PSR Youth2Youth	\$214	Ongoing activities
5	GAO	ONG - ATDED	Community Capacity Building Project on Conflict Resolution, Natural Resource Management, and Support for Income-Generating Activities in the Commune of Anderamboukane	\$52,678	Ongoing activities
6		CRAC	SALAM (BANI- JAM- ALGAFIAT- LAFIA- PEACE) To equip youth councils (communal, local and regional) with operational action plans and sensitive to the consolidation of peace in the Gao region.	\$52,678	Ongoing activities
7		GROUPE DE REFLEXION POUR LES INITIATIVES DE DEVELOPPEMENT	Support to the people of Ouatagouna for reconciliation for peace, prevention and resolution of community conflicts through training and job creation for youth and victims of the armed conflict in the Ansongo circle.	\$52,321	Ongoing activities
8		Ali Ibrahim MAIGA	PSR Youth2Youth	857	Ongoing activities
9		Mohamed Moussa	PSR Youth2Youth	571	Ongoing activities
10	Mopti	ONG ODI Sahel	Project to Support Youth Participation in the Process of Consolidation of Peace and Security in the Circles of Douentza and Djenné - Mopti Region)	\$44,375	Ongoing activities
11		ADAP (Association pour le Développement Actif et Participatif)	Contribution to the building and consolidation of peace and social cohesion of young citizens in the rural commune of Bankass	\$50,893	Ongoing activities
12		ONG AMAC	Support for the promotion and consolidation of peace and social cohesion in the commune of Bankass	\$46,429	Ongoing activities
13		ONG GRAD-COM	Project to strengthen the resilience capacities of at-risk youth and ex-combatants in the rural commune of Koro	\$47,857	Ongoing activities
14		O.N.G TAMA SIRA	Preparing communities for the reintegration and reconciliation of victims of violence and ex-combatants	\$47,232	Ongoing activities
15		Aly Baba COULIBALY	PSR Youth2Youth	\$471	Ongoing activities
16		Barnabas GUINDO	PSR Youth2Youth	\$589	Ongoing activities
17		Aboubacar TOURE	PSR Youth2Youth	\$411	Ongoing activities
18		Hamidou Niapogou	PSR Youth2Youth	\$857	Ongoing activities
19		Ogobaye Herman GUINDO	PSR Youth2Youth	\$857	Ongoing activities
20		Kola AMADOU BAH	PSR Youth2Youth	\$603	Ongoing activities
21		Koumbeli Diaw	PSR Youth2Youth	\$214	Ongoing activities
22		Mohamadou Kouma	PSR Youth2Youth	\$857	Ongoing activities
23	Moussa Kondo	PSR Youth2Youth	\$857	Ongoing activities	

24		Oumar Niangaly	PSR Youth2Youth	\$607	Ongoing activities
25		Daouda COULIBALY	PSR Youth2Youth	\$829	Ongoing activities
26	SEGOU	CPHDA	Strengthen the life skills of young people Strengthen and boost the technical skills of young people for better empowerment Strengthen the capacities and knowledge of young men and women on the prevention and peaceful management of community conflicts	\$52,679	Ongoing activities
27		ADEJ-Mali	Café for peer educators against the recruitment of young people to terrorism and banditry in Niono Commune	\$52,359	Ongoing activities
28		ONG ASECOM	Project of psychosocial support to victims of conflicts and peace education in communities	\$45,593	Ongoing activities
29		TERRE DOUCE D'AFRIQUE (TDA)	The Rural Governance and Accountability Project - Youth Capacity Building and Employment	\$52,678	Ongoing activities
30		ONG ABN-AID	Support Project for the Empowerment and Resilience Building of Youth Peer Education against Violent Extremism in the Macina Circle "PAARRJEV".	\$50,893	Ongoing activities
31		Daouda Coulibaly	PSR Youth2Youth	\$829	Ongoing activities
32		Famory Oumar KEITA	PSR Youth2Youth	\$792	Ongoing activities
33		Idrissa GORO	PSR Youth2Youth	\$214	Ongoing activities
34		Sekou Coulibaly	PSR Youth2Youth	\$214	Ongoing activities
35		BAMAKO	Fanta DIAW	PSR Youth2Youth	\$571
36	Koumbeli Diaw		PSR Youth2Youth	\$214	Ongoing activities
37	Fatoumata Bengaly		PSR Youth2Youth	\$857	Ongoing activities
38	Garba DIA		PSR Youth2Youth	\$643	Ongoing activities
39	Salif Sarré		PSR Youth2Youth	\$857	Ongoing activities
40	Zoumana Dembele		PSR Youth2Youth	\$857	Ongoing activities
41	Med Maiga		PSR Youth2Youth	\$214	Ongoing activities
42	Sorry DIAKITE		The production of early warning messages in the form of a slam aimed at youth on the prevention of COVID-19 and the production of two (02) videos on the involvement of youth in raising awareness against the coronavirus pandemic.	\$3,929	Ongoing activities
TOTAL				\$ 522,459	

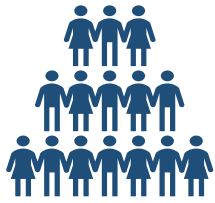
ANNEX 5: M&E DATA VISUALIZATION

PSR Q2 FY21 Activities by theme and participants in terms of sex and age group

Event theme	# of events per theme	Men 30+	Women 30+	Men 16-29	Women 16-29	Participants per theme
Civic Education of Women	9	72	281	17	76	446
P2P- Intergenerational dialogue	16	318	69	73	33	493
Conflict Prevention and Management Trainings	8	134	60	71	60	325
Youth Leadership Trainings	7	59	14	30	20	123
Livelihoods Trainings (entrepreneurship, market gardening, livestock, financial management)	5	79	59	90	62	290
Information Mechanisms and Participatory Governance Workshops	22	597	196	85	43	921
COVID-19 1st Order Response	9	157	50	18	14	239
COVID-19 2nd Order Response	10	224	151	113	14	502
Citizenship Awareness	2	82	47	88	101	318
Awareness on Conflict Management and Social Cohesion	13	601	595	1,263	1,686	4,145
Awareness of Leadership and Advocacy Strategies	5	36	8	122	122	288
Awareness of Violent Extremism	2	32	0	1	4	37
Youth Cafés	8	24	5	52	26	107

	All events	Men 30+	Women 30+	Men 16-29	Women 16-29	All participants
Totals each group:	116	2,415	1,535	2,023	2,261	8,234
% of total participants:	-	29%	19%	25%	27%	100%

Mali PSR engaged



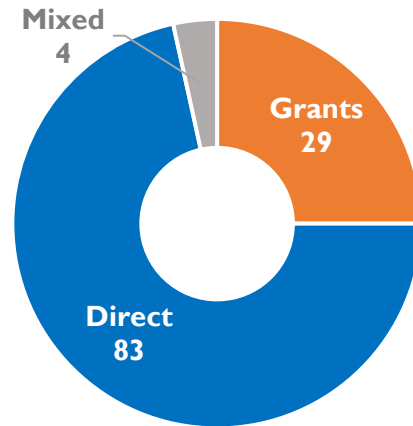
8,234

Participants in Q2 FY21

Of the 116 Mali PSR events:

83 were implemented directly

29 were implemented via grants



Mali PSR conducted



116

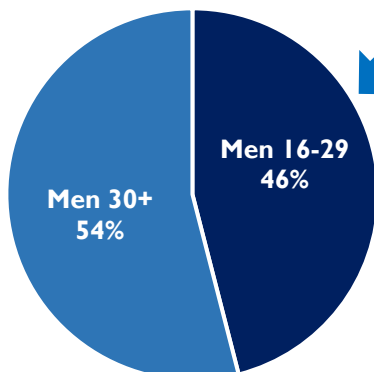
Events in Q2 FY21

In Q2 FY21, Mali PSR achieved a good gender split:

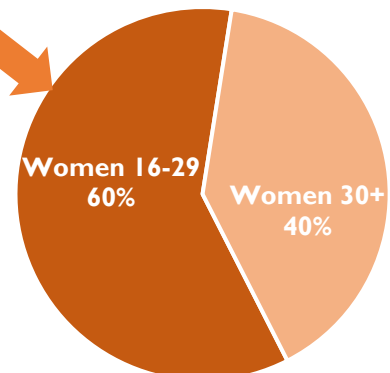
of the 8,234 PSR participants

54% were men and 46% were women

Mali PSR improved the share of youth: of all male participants, 46% were 16-29



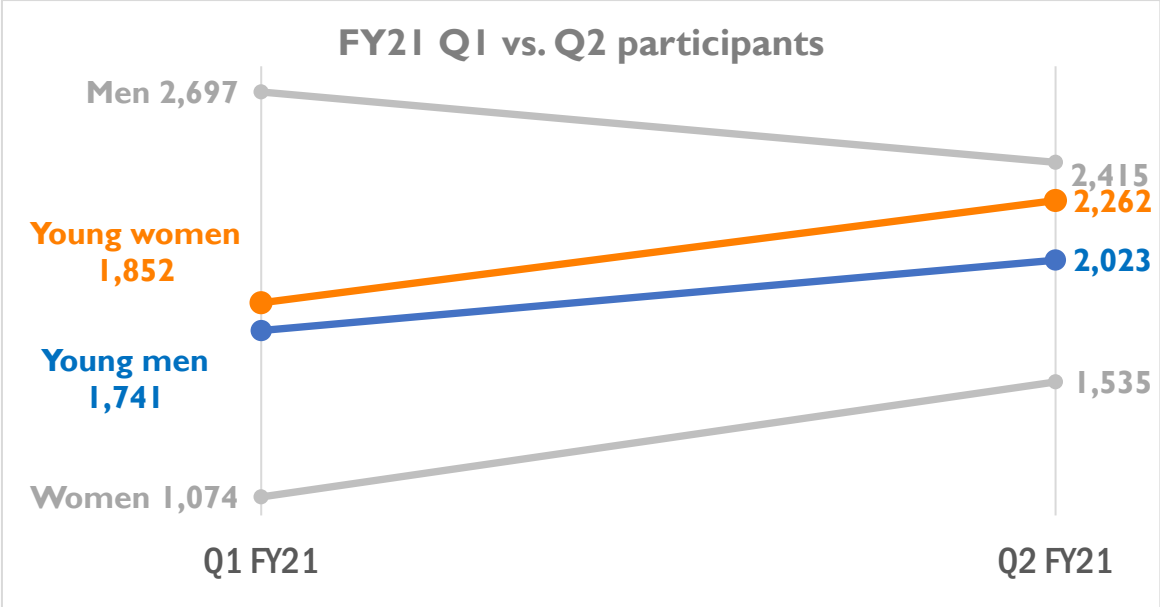
Mali PSR improved the share of youth: of all female participants, 60% were 16-29



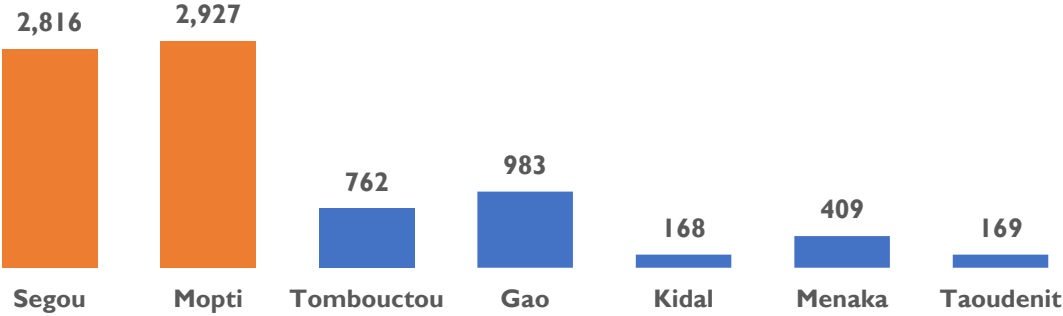
The 116 Mali PSR events covered a variety of themes under all four program objectives. Here’s the breakdown of events by theme and color-coded by objective:



While men 30+ continue to be the largest share of Mali PSR participants, in Q2 FY21, Mali PSR improved the participation of **young women** and **young men** as well as women 30+.



Of the 8,234 Mali PSR participants: **5,743 live in the Center** and **2,491 live in the North**. Here's a breakdown of PSR participants by region.



ANNEX 6: COMMUNE CLASSIFICATION

Region	Cercle	Commune	Score on 12/31/2020	Status on 01/01/2021	Score at 03/01/2021	Status at 03/31/2021	General comments
Mopti	Bandiagara	Bandiagara	18	Buffer	21	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadly attacks targeted the gendarme and guard camps causing psychosis among the communities. • Improvised explosive devices are reported on the Bandiagara-Sévaré and Bandiagara-Bankass roads. • Presence of increased number of soldiers following the arrival of the new governor. • Continued presence of dozos who provide security of people and their goods.
Mopti	Bankass	Bankass	16	Buffer	16	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attacks, thefts of cattle and robberies on the roads. • Sporadic presence of armed groups. • Clashes between armed groups and hunters • The movement of people and goods poses a risk. However, weekly markets are held. • Basic social services (education, schools, health, etc.) are delivered only in the capital.
Mopti	Bankass	Ouenkoro	13	Conflict	13	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of armed groups • Basic social services are not delivered. • State is absent. • Assistance is provided by humanitarian actors.
Mopti	Bankass	Segue	14	Conflict	13	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of armed groups

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings can be held only in the town's capital and are not regular. • Implementation of community. • The Sub-Prefect resides in Bankass.
Mopti	Djenne	Djenne	27	Resilient	27	Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC members are active in conflict management. • Regular meetings in the capital of the commune and in the 11 villages. • Presence of the State • Delivery of basic social services. • People attend markets on a regular basis.
Mopti	Djenne	Togue-Mourari	10	Conflict	10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled by armed groups. • Absence of state and NGOs and/CSO (Mali PSR ended a grant to Tama Sira, a local NGO which did not have access to the commune to implement grant activities) • No open conflicts because the populations of the commune have learned to adhere to the instructions of armed groups
Mopti	Douentza	Douentza	20	Buffer	24	Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the commune due to the presence of armed groups. • No open conflict but threats in neighboring communes could spill over in the commune • The <i>Banque Internationale du Mali</i> closed in February 2021 due to insecurity.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of a Governor and state technical services. • Local authorities and CSOs regularly hold meetings.
Mopti	Koro	Dinangourou	13	Conflict	12	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed groups forced villagers of Sarri to flee in neighboring villagers and attacked military bases. • The mayor, the sub-prefect and local advisors reside in Koro. • Basic social services are not delivered, the state is absent. • Armed groups forced communities to adhere to conservative dress code (mandatory veils for women and knee-level pants for men)
Mopti	Koro	Dioungani	14	Conflict	11	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled by armed groups. • Frequent attacks. • The Mayor and the Sub-prefect reside in Koro. • The delivery of services to residents is almost non-existent.
Mopti	Koro	Koro	18	Buffer	17	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of armed groups near the border with Burkina Faso. • The delivery of basic social services is limited to the capital of Koro and a few villages. • Reduced clashes between the Peulh and Dogon communities due to local peace initiatives • Markets are held without incident.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of construction equipment at the military base 12 kilometers from Koro; destruction of building bricks for classrooms in Urodourou 17 kilometers from Koro.
Mopti	Mopti	Konna	19	Buffer	20	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporadic presence of armed groups. • Delivery of basic social (schools and health centers) in the commune capital but absent in the 28 villages. • Meetings are held from time to time in the commune capital. • Presence of the FAMas and EUCAP Sahel facilitate the movement of people. • Ambushes against the FAMas between the city of Mopti and the commune of Konna.
Mopti	Mopti	Mopti	25	Resilient	25	Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of the State • Delivery of basic social services in the Mopti commune. • Meetings are held in the commune. • No open conflict or presence of armed groups.
Mopti	Tenenkou	Tenenkou	18	Buffer	18	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of armed groups on major roads. • Limited movement of people. • Meetings are not held regularly or in secret. • Basic social services are delivered only in the town of Ténénkou. • Markets take place.

Mopti	Youwarou	Youwarou	17	Buffer	17	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of armed groups on major roads, including at the entrance to Lake Débbo near Konna. • Presence of the national army. • Basic social services are delivered only in the commune capital
Segou	Macina	Macina	20	Buffer	20	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermittent presence of armed groups. • Patrols by the national army and Dozos (hunters). • Ban on motorbikes outside the city from dusk to dawn. • Delivery of basic social services.
Segou	Macina	Matomo	21	Buffer	21	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of the Dozos. • Ban on two-wheeled vehicles has been lifted. • Reduced tensions due to respect the 2019 non-aggression agreements signed between the Bambara and Peulh communities.
Segou	Macina	Tongue	21	Buffer	21	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of Dozos who ensure the security of people and goods. • The movement of people is possible. • Basic social services are delivered.
Segou	Niono	Diabaly	12	Conflict	18	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Niono Reconciliation Forum in February 2021 contributed to building peace. • The FAMas patrol in and around the commune. • Basic social services are delivered in the commune capital.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairs and other economic activities are held and farming .
Segou	Niono	Niono	15	Buffer	16	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less insecurity following the reconciliation forum chaired by the Minister of Reconciliation . Local initiatives promoted the reconciliation among communities of the villages of N'dolla, Aliboubou-wèrè, Tiamaba and Kouyé-bamanan Limited movement outside of the commune's capital is less risky, allowing service to be delivered beyond the capital of the commune.. Collaboration between the police and the population is gradually being restored. Farming activities are taking place.
Segou	Segou	Segou	25	Resilient	26	Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular between the authorities and the citizens. The delivery of public services is permanent throughout the commune. Absence of armed groups. Difficult access to the villages due to the presence of armed groups The provision of basic social services is not assured in 53 out of 54 villages. Meetings cannot be held for fear of being attacked or kidnapped in the 53 villages.
Segou	Segou	Pelengana	24	Resilient	23	Resilient	
Segou	Segou	Markala	25	Resilient	26	Resilient	
Timbuktu	Niafunke	Soboundou	13				

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FAMAs ensure the security of goods and people only in the capital of the Niafunké commune.
Timbuktu	Goundam	Goundam	22	Resilient	23	Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of some basic social services is assured. Meetings are held regularly in the commune. FAMAs and MINUSMA ensure the security of goods and people. The town is still accessible
Timbuktu	Dire	Dire	19	Buffer	18	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of armed groups. The Mayor resides in Diré. Opening of the police station and the Gendarmerie brigade at night in the capital of the urban commune of Diré. Schools in the commune re-opened. Difficult access to some villages (Gairama, Akabane and Bingatane).
Taoudenit	Araouane	Achamour	13	Conflict	13	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insecurity through robberies on main roads Sporadic attacks by armed groups in neighboring towns. Absence of basic social services. The President of the Interim Authorities and the Prefect of the Araouane circle reside in Timbuktu. Meetings are possible but cultural events are prohibited.
Taoudenit	Al-Ourche	Touwal	14	Conflict	14	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of armed groups.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security is provided an armed group, signatory of the Algiers Peace Agreement. • Health care is provided by a Local NGO. • The President of the Interim authorities and the Prefect of the Circle of Al-Ourche reside in Timbuktu. • Basic social services are not ensured throughout the commune. • Meetings are possible but artistic events are prohibited
Taoudenit	Boujebeha	Agouni	17	Buffer	17	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in attacks by armed groups. • The CMA ensures the security of populations and their property. • The president of the Interim Authorities and the Prefect of the Boujbeha circle in charge of the Agouni commune reside in Timbuktu. • The delivery of social services is not ensured due to the absence of administrative and political authorities • Meetings are possible but artistic events are prohibited. Access is difficult for fear of being attacked by bandits and robbers on the main road.
Timbuktu	Timbuktu	Bourem Inaly	24	Resilient	22	Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of basic social services is ensured in some villages on a progressive basis.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meetings and sessions take place at the administrative center. • The Mayor and the Prefect reside in Timbuktu. • Access to the town is possible either by waterway or road.
Timbuktu	Timbuktu	Timbuktu	27		27		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor and the Prefect reside in Timbuktu. • No presence of armed groups. • The provision of basic social services is assured. • Meetings are possible and are held regularly. • Presence of FAMAs, MOC elements, armed movements, Barkhane, MINUSMA ensure the security of goods and people • Access to the town is easy and possible.
Timbuktu	Timbuktu	Ber	17	Buffer	19	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor resides in the commune. • The sub-prefect lives in Timbuktu. • The provision of basic social services is not assured in some villages of the commune. • meetings are held despite presence of armed groups. • Presence of MINUSMA and national army that ensure the security of goods and people. • The town is accessible.
Gao	Gao	Ansongo	18	Buffer	19	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidents linked to banditry, robbery and attacks.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic social services are delivered in the 6 villages and absent in two <i>fractions</i>. • Presence of FAMAs and foreign MINUSMA forces. • Intermittent attacks of military check points by armed groups.
Gao	Ansongo	Tessit	13	Conflict	13	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of armed groups on the main roads that that impose the payment of dime / zakat. • Basic social services are not delivered. • The Mayor and the sub-prefect reside in Ansongo. • Absence of the FAMAs
Gao	Ansongo	Ouattagouna	13	Conflict	13	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted and frequent attacks and killings of 04 people by armed groups. • Presence of armed groups which impose the payment of dime / zakat in certain villages. • Absence in the delivery of basic social services • The Mayor resides either in Ansongo or in Gao and only goes to the commune with escorts from FAMA and or from MINUSMA. • 15 villages and fractions out of 22 of the commune are controlled by armed groups close to EIGS.
Gao	Bourem	Bourem	21	Buffer	20	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of basic social services. • The FAMAs ensure the safety of people and their property.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbery and sporadic attacks by armed groups. • Consultations and other meetings are held in the commune.
Gao	Bourem	Tarkint	13	Conflict	14	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent attacks by armed groups. • The Sub-Prefect and the Prefect reside in Bourem, • The Mayor resides in Gao. • Basic social services are not delivered. • Meetings of NGOs and other partners are difficult to hold for fear of being attacked or kidnapped by armed groups.
Gao	Bourem	Bamba	20	Buffer		Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of FAMA in the capital. • Intermittent attacks by armed groups. • Basic social services are provided only in the capital of the commune. • Meetings are held.
Gao	Gao	Gao	23	Resilient	23	Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No open conflicts.
Gao	Gao	Soni Ali Ber	24	Resilient	24	Resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of FAMA and international troops. • Presence of the State and technical services. • Presence of the Mayor and the sub-prefect. • Delivery of basic social services
Kidal	Kidal	Kidal	20	Buffer	19	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commune is under the control of the CMA which imposes its laws. • Presence of the Governor. • The reconstituted army is confined in a camp.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic social services are not functioning. • Education services are relocated to Gao. • The hospital operates with the support of partners.
Kidal	Kidal	Essouk	13	Conflict	12	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular attacks by armed groups. • Absence of basic social services. • The mayor resides in Kidal.
Kidal	Kidal	Anefif	14	Conflict	13	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic social services are absent. • The mayor and the sub-prefect reside in Kidal. • Influence of self-defense groups that ensure the safety of people and their property. • Intermittent attacks by radical groups
Kidal	Tessalit	Tessalit	20	Buffer	17	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of FAMA and foreign forces MINUSMA and Barkhane ensures relative security. • Delivery of basic social services including schools, health only in the capital of the commune.
Menaka	Anderamboukane	Anderamboukane	14	Conflict	13	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murder of a member of the Platform, a signatory group. • Attacks on Nigerien villages of Bakorat and Intazayene (40 kilometers from Anderamboukane) killed approximately 200 people. • Presence of armed groups that impose the payment of dime / zakat in some villages. • Basic social services delivered only in the capital.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of the FAMAs. • Presence of self-defense groups. • Access is difficult due to insecurity on the roads.
Menaka	Tidermene	Alata	14	Conflict	14	Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor and the sub-prefect do not reside in the commune. • Basic social services are not delivered. • Presence of self-defense groups MSA-Chamanamass who ensure a minimum of security for people and their goods and impose their law. • Access to the town is difficult due to insecurity on the roads.
Menaka	Menaka	Menaka	20	Buffer	21	Buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The villages of Akabar Tabankorte Infoukaretane, Ighazran Nakh are controlled by armed groups. • Seven NGO rental vehicles were abducted or sabotaged. • Presence of the State through the prefect, sub-prefect, Governor and other services. • Meetings are held regularly. • Basic social services are delivered in the capital but not in some villages.