



PHOTO: F. GUINDO/IFDPMI PROJECT

# MALI

## PROMOTING MALIAN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

### Gender statistics:

- The UN Gender Inequality Index rank 2017: Mali 139 out of 144 countries;
- Only 8.8% of Mali’s parliamentary seats are held by women;
- While 57.3% of girls are enrolled in primary education, only 15% of them complete secondary education;
- 26.6% of Malian women reported being physically or sexually assaulted.

Source: *The Global Gender Gap Report 2017*  
International Data & Economic Analysis – website: <https://idea.usaid.gov>

Since 2013, USAID Mali has partnered with the government of Mali to lower gender inequality and promote women and youth empowerment and participation in peace and security. USAID Mali’s programs contribute to addressing gender inequalities through various program sectors, including economic growth, good governance, education, health, and humanitarian assistance. By integrating a gender-sensitive approach into programming, we improve the results in these sectors for more sustainable and effective development outcomes.

**AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE:** The Feed the Future Initiative ensures that activities are gender-integrated, focusing on the promotion of improved farming practices, agroforestry and the financing and capacity strengthening of women farmers. USAID engages programs to support women entrepreneurs in the agribusiness sector and address the challenges that hinder women’s socio-economic empowerment and target women beneficiaries to support and build resilience to reduce vulnerability to climatic and economic shocks.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:** From 2013-2017, over 260,000 female farmers have applied new technologies and management practices in agriculture. The access to agricultural rural loans to more than 2.2 million women involved in agriculture has contributed to improving their livelihoods and expanding their activities. Additionally, over 12,000 female owners of micro-small medium size enterprises gained access to bank loans.

practices to improve resilience to climate change.

**DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOVERNANCE:** USAID programs ensure that women have equal opportunities to engage with government and advocate for gender sensitivity and streamlining in the justice sector. USAID democracy programs encourage greater participation of women in the electoral process, strengthen the role and the voice of women and youth to engage and collectively address priority development and reconciliation needs. We seek to address the weak representation and participation of women and youth in the conflict mediation structure and support awareness campaigns to increase their participation in their communities.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:** From 2013 to 2017, more than 900,000 women received voter and civic education training to improve women's participation as a result of our assistance. In 2016 over 150 magistrates, lawyers, police officers, health and social services professionals, and civil society organizations received training in the management of gender violence cases. The same year, USAID supported over 600 women who have participated in a substantive role or position in a peace building process.

**EDUCATION:** USAID advances gender equality and women's empowerment by focusing on gender gaps between boys and girls in basic education. Our programs focus on community dialogue and mobilization campaigns for the enrollment and retention of girls in schools, monitoring their attendance, advocating for girls' education and against early marriage, and building accelerated learning centers. Furthermore, USAID education programs promote inclusive education and the rights of girls with disabilities. Through our education programs, USAID addresses gender-based violence (GBV) by providing teachers and school directors with gender awareness training and improving delivery of conflict and gender sensitive basic educational services.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:** From 2014-2017, our education projects contributed to enrolling 11, 1692 girls in primary schools and equivalent non-school based settings. Over 40,000 girls received learning kits in conflict areas. With our assistance, 7000 primary and secondary female educators completed professional development activities. In addition, over 8,704 teachers and 3,654 school directors are now able to use gender equitable teaching methods.

**GLOBAL HEALTH:** USAID's programs in health focus on targeting women's groups in family planning, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene. The projects work to increase access to quality health services and post-traumatic care for survivors of GBV and to reduce the impact of female genital mutilation on women and girls' health. USAID also addresses GBV through fistula prevention and repair program. USAID's HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment program targets key populations with some of the most vulnerable.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:** From 2013-2017, close to 97,000 individuals received testing and counselling services for HIV thanks to USAID health programs. Over 911 women benefited from fistula restorative surgery. Additionally, more than 600,000 pregnant women received uterotronics on the third stage of labor or immediately after birth through USG supported programs from 2015-2017.

**FOOD FOR PEACE:** USAID's Food for Peace programs offer essential humanitarian assistance and conflict mitigation, and help build the resilience of communities, predominantly through women. The activities carried out contribute to strengthening nutrition for pregnant and lactating women and their children; engaging community leaders on gender in order to integrate that dimension into communities' development actions and to highlight the role of women in the household and community development; and increasing the resilience of vulnerable households.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:** Food assistance (Misola flour and improved millet seeds) reached 1,890 pregnant and lactating women and over 2,000 received improved seeds of millet, sorghum and cowpea in 2017. The same year, around 30 community leaders and members of men's engagement groups received training on gender and GBV. To support resiliency, 1,341 women from Village Saving and Loan Associations have initiated savings and credit activities.

**OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE:** We support programs that build the resilience of vulnerable communities in areas of recurrent crises and extreme poverty. All our programs integrate protection and gender considerations. We also address gender base violence (GBV) by providing psychological and medical assistance to survivors of GBV; conducting community awareness activities; and training health staff in providing clinical services.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:** From 2013-2015 over 200 survivors of GBV received psychosocial and medical care. Our community awareness activities reached over 9,000 women and girls. From 2014-2015, OFDA projects also helped to train around 9,000 men and women in the prevention of GBV, and 40,000 men and women on the causes and consequences of gender base violence including 21 trained health staff on the clinical management of rapes/sexual assault.