



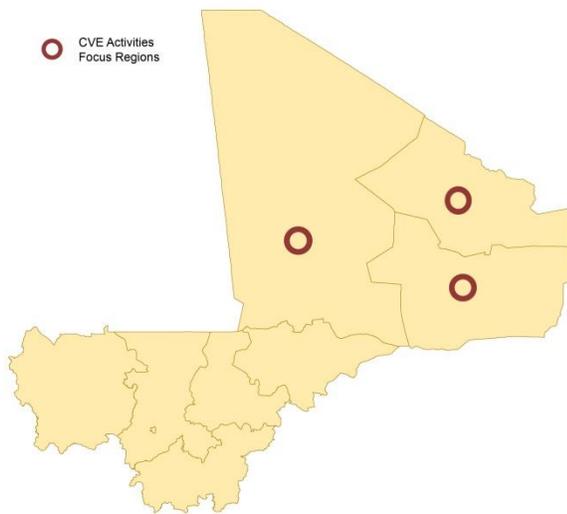
USAID
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USAID MALI

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM ACTIVITY



USAID counters violent extremism in Mali through two projects: the Peacebuilding Stabilization and Reconciliation Project and Voices for Peace Project. The purpose of USAID’s Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) interventions is to target vulnerable communities to support and build capacity to address conflict, radicalization,

and violent extremism. Through local level interventions, communities will then contribute to peace and reconciliation in Mali.

USAID’S APPROACH AND RESPONSE

Stabilization of conflict-affected areas is the first Transition Objective outlined in USAID/Mali’s 2015-2020 Country Development Cooperation Strategy. USAID’s Offices of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Food for Peace, Health and Education continue to provide a base for desperately needed long-term development efforts in central Mali, especially in Tenenkou, Youwarou, Douentza, Bandiagara circles, and Mopti; all identified as having the highest need with the greatest potential for resilience programming. This geographic area is also part of the “Feed the Future” zone of influence. Today’s deteriorating security situation in most of these circles underlines the

necessity for urgent action, to stop the spread of instability having a catastrophic effect on Mali's ability to recover from political, social, economic, and climatic shocks. USAID/Mali and other donors are therefore looking to transition out of the emergency assistance phase and into longer-term, sustainable and scalable peacebuilding, stabilization, and reconciliation activities to build on these investments and support Mali's vision outlined in the Peace Accord.

PEACEBUILDING, STABILIZATION AND RECONCILIATION

The Peacebuilding, Stabilization and Reconciliation Project aims to improve prospects for long-term peace, security, and reconciliation by creating trust between conflict-affected communities and their government; strengthening the ability of communities to mitigate and manage conflict; prioritize and implement their community's most pressing development needs; and empowering marginalized youth as change agents. This Project will support conflict-affected communities to develop and implement early warning and response systems, develop non-violent conflict mitigation and management mechanisms and provide support to victims of violence. It will also focus on rebuilding relationships and trust between citizens and government representatives through inclusive governance, civic engagement and support the implementation of key government strategies to stabilize northern and central Mali.

KEY ACTIVITIES: This project will offer skills based training and micro-grants to youth groups to increase empowerment, entrepreneurship and independence and engage them and their families against violent extremism by holding community forums. The program will also provide grants to local civil society organizations to directly engage with local religious institutions in order to reinforce youth messaging and orientation against violent extremism. Finally, it will work with local government stakeholders, civil society organizations, and community leaders and influencers to organize workshops to reinforce youth messaging against violent extremism while identifying avenues for greater youth involvement in development initiatives.

VOICES FOR PEACE

The Voices for Peace Project is a regional communication and media strengthening effort leveraging both traditional and new media to counter violent extremism and promote peace, democracy, human rights and governance. The project supports a culturally-resonant communications environment of ant-violent extremism narratives by building the capacity of locally influential voices, establishing interactive media platforms, and engaging at-risk youth, women, and communities with quality, credible content. The Project initially targeted Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, and expanded in February 2018 to Cameroon and in April 2018 to Mali.

KEY ACTIVITIES: The presence of Voices for Peace in Mali is limited with a production office and team based in Gao. It supports and provides programming to five community radio stations on the tri-border of the Liptako-Gourma area with the Sahel region in Burkina Faso and Tillaberi region in Niger. The Project broadcasts programs related to countering violent extremism in local languages such as Moore, Ffulde, Zarma/Songhai, and Tamashek and works with community radio stations to broadcast their own programs on similar themes. Voices for Peace also provides training on station management and operations and supports radio through the network of women media professionals to produce and broadcast high quality programming fostering youth and women's participation in political and peace process.