PSR is USAID/Mali’s development response to peacebuilding, stabilization and reconciliation in northern and central Mali. The project applies lessons learned from emergency stabilization programming used since 2012.

The project serves to improve prospects for long-term peace, security, and reconciliation by building 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.

PSR intends to produce measurable improvement in the efficiency, effectiveness and capacities of the local communities to be more resilient to conflict and violent extremism. 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 peace deal and the regional development plans which, in turn, will create the conditions for more lasting and durable peace.

PEACE DIVIDENDS AND SOCIAL COHESION

Using a flexible foundation that prioritizes critical development needs, i.e. “peace dividends,” PSR builds social cohesion by sequencing and integrating activities in harmony with stakeholders in order to leverage opportunities for change. This approach starts with small projects to strengthen community level governance, civic engagement, and conflict resolution. The grass-roots approach serves to develop a nuanced village by village understanding of conflict dynamics for greater inclusion and better buy-in to create social cohesion and trust from the bottom up.