U.S. SUPPORT TO ELECTIONS IN MALI

USAID’S EMPOWERING MALIANS THROUGH ELECTION, REFORM AND GOVERNANCE EFFORTS (EMERGE)

With a budget of $6 million (including a $1.2 million contribution from the Swiss Cooperation), the EMERGE Project aims to advance peace, reconciliation, and more accountable governance through credible and inclusive national elections. Illustrative activities for this two-year project include:

Civic Education
- Nationwide voter engagement campaign via national and private media has started.
- Organization of a national caravan for voter mobilization.

Electoral Observation
- Support to the training and deployment of a total of 1,000 domestic election observers from civil society organizations. On election day, they will observe and collect data from more than 1,200 polling stations (out of 23,041) in all 49 circles of Mali, security permitting.
- Training of 100 poll watchers from political parties.

Engagement of Women in political process
- The long term goal is to build a pipeline of candidates and elected women who can assume leadership positions in government and political parties. The focus will be more on the legislative and local elections following the Presidential one.
- The women’s Civil Society Organization Network is developing a women’s public policy agenda and are advocating for its consideration in the agenda of different candidates.

Political Parties contribution to Credible and Peaceful Polls
- Promote the code of conduct for political parties and candidates. Twenty (20) candidates signed as of July 12, 2018.
- Support issue-based debates between candidates on state and private media outlets ORTM and Africable.

USAID REGIONAL PROGRAMMING

This project’s objective is to prevent or mitigate conflict around the elections through small grants to three local NGOs.
• **Think Peace**: $56,474 to conduct conflict prevention programming during the presidential elections in Kayes, Sikasso, Ségou, and the District of Bamako.

• **Association Malienne pour le Relèvement du Taux de Participation aux Elections (AMRTPE)**: $91,210 to support awareness raising and conflict prevention mechanisms at commune levels, in the Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso, and Gao regions, and in the District of Bamako.

• **Centre Malien pour le Dialogue Interpartis et la Démocratie (CMDID)**: $77,773 to expand its conflict prevention platform and conduct awareness raising on electoral security in Kayes, Sikasso, Mopti, and Ségou.

**USAID CONTRIBUTION TO UNDP BASKET FUND**

USAID Mali is also contributing $622,000 to UNDP’s newly launched $5 million dollar UNDP basket fund program named PACE. Other donors are the Swiss, Norway and Luxembourg. This program will provide support to the election management institutions, civic education, conflict prevention and mitigation, and lead coordination with the international community.

**USAID SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION**

**Civil Society Observers**

A coalition of civil society organizations, COCEM (Coalition pour l’Observation Citoyenne des Elections au Mali) funded through USAID’s EMERGE project, will carry out the following election observation activities. COCEM is a coalition of the following NGOs: AMDH (Association Malienne des Droits de l’Homme), JCI (Jeune Chambre International), RPL (Réseau Plaidoyer Lobbying), SOS Démocratie and Wildaf.

- **Pre-electoral Observation**: COCEM is deploying 18 long term observers covering all the 9 regions of Mali and the district of Bamako. They will observe the distribution of voter cards and the electoral campaign.

- **Election Day**: 1160 trained and accredited observers will be deployed based on a proportional distribution by electoral district.

- **Report**: COCEM will produce three press releases on Election Day.

All COCEM observers are recruited and accredited by the National Independent Election Commission, and trained on the use of observation checklists. Observers will use this checklist to assess the different steps of the Election Day process including set up, opening, voting, closing and counting procedures.

**U.S. Mission in Mali Observers**

The U.S. Mission will also have electoral observation teams in place on Election Day:

- **Numbers of observers**: 50
- **Number of polling places**: 150
- **Towns**: Koutiala, Kita, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou, Bamako
- **All observers will be accredited by CENI and trained by USAID.**