



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# SUCCESS STORY

## USAID Provides Timely Support to Malian IDPs

**USAID provided more than 4,500 conflict-affected Malians with the financial resources necessary to meet their basic needs.**



*ACTED beneficiaries utilizing USAID-funded cash transfers to purchase basic goods.*

*Courtesy of ACTED*

*“Cash transfers helped me to better provide for the needs of my family.”*

- *Aboubacrine, ACTED beneficiary in Bamako City*

Conflict in northern Mali in 2012 resulted in large-scale population displacement to southern Mali and neighboring countries. As insecurity continued to spread, relief agencies became concerned about the deteriorating living conditions among the growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the majority of whom fled to major cities where the cost of living was high and job opportunities were scarce. Moreover, many IDPs chose to reside with host families, straining already limited community resources during a time of record food insecurity.

In response to immediate needs, USAID—through partner the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)—moved quickly to provide monthly cash transfers to vulnerable IDPs and host families in the capital city of Bamako via mobile phones. With the mobile money, beneficiaries were able to pay for basic goods and services and initiate small-scale, income-generating activities.

With approximately \$152—the average monthly transfer—in hand, beneficiary families could better afford medical care and important goods available in local markets, complementing staple commodities distributed by the U.N. World Food Program. Some parents reported utilizing the cash to pay school fees, preventing further disruption to their children’s education. Furthermore, cash grants allowed IDPs to pay for rented accommodations or contribute to host family expenses, alleviating financial pressure and enabling host communities to continue supporting IDPs.

USAID’s support for cash transfers in Mali also protects livelihoods by injecting much-needed cash into the local economy. Moreover, cash transfers protect dignity of choice by empowering IDPs and host families to purchase local goods they deem most vital for meeting household priorities and improving their circumstances.