



Street art in Bamako calling for peace in Mali, 2023.

USAID Salam Community Stabilization Activity

CONTEXT

At the crossroads of overlapping farming and livestock-rearing livelihoods zones, Central Mali has experienced disputes and inter-community conflicts since long before the onset of the ongoing political and security crisis. When animals destroy crops or graze on private property, or when farmers disagree on the boundaries of plots, disputes arise. While only a small minority of disputes lead to violence, the number of fatalities due to farmer-herder disputes has increased significantly since 2015. Unresolved disputes affect how future disputes are understood and can become woven into narratives regarding past grievances, political conflict, and even the role of extremist groups in the wider armed conflict. As such, even non-violent disputes pose a serious threat to intergroup relations and broader cohesion¹.

The USAID Salam (*translation USAID Peace*) peacebuilding activity will reduce the frequency and severity of dispute escalations in the villages of Ségou and Mopti to prevent broader-reaching or more violent conflicts.

¹ Social cohesion is “a sense of shared purpose and trust among members of a given group or locality and the willingness of those group members to engage and cooperate with each other to survive and prosper.” Kim, Sheely, and Schmidt (2020)

ABOUT THE ACTIVITY

- 1) The five-year USAID Salam activity will improve the social cohesion in conflict affected areas in central Mali by supporting peacebuilding and livelihoods resilience in 225 villages in Ségou and Mopti. The activity will implement holistic, community-led peacebuilding interventions to promote sustainability and to achieve two intermediate results: Empowered communities to prevent and resolve conflicts, and
- 2) Increased capacity of households to address their urgent needs.

The approach of this activity is rooted in an understanding that to affect the conflict system, participants must include community members who are key to addressing the conflict; reach a large enough segment of the population affected by conflict to shift attitudes, perceptions, and beliefs toward one another; and drive change in socio-political institutions and practices to achieve peace. As such, USAID Salam's peacebuilding interventions will strengthen and build social capital at the individual and institutional levels to prevent and resolve conflicts, while increasing the involvement of women and youth in the interventions. The activity will increase the economic power of women and amplify their role in promoting social cohesion through unconditional cash transfers that build livelihoods resilience and relieve family-based pressure that increase vulnerability to conflict.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improve the capacity of local resolution mechanisms to prevent and resolve conflicts.
- Increase the involvement of women and youth in conflict prevention and resolution.
- Increase households' capacity to address their urgent needs.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Chemonics International Inc.

Sub- Awardees:

- Center for the Promotion of Human Rights and Development in Africa (CPHDA)

INTERVENTION AREA

Mopti and Segou regions