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MALI

ADDENDUM TO THE 2012 GENDER ASSESSMENT

May 2015

To ensure that USAID/Mali's current Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) process is well informed and inclusive of gender related issues, the Mission is submitting an addendum to the 2012 Gender Assessment to highlight gaps, opportunities and priorities that will increase the impact, relevancy and efficiency of programming. The following addendum addresses changes in the operating context from the USAID/Mali 2012 assessment and incorporates new analyses, consultations and reports to inform decision-making. In addition, this addendum speaks to the reinvigoration of USAID/Mali's CDCS process – which proposes a cross-sectoral approach to the CDCS Results Framework process. This addendum is not a stand-alone document; rather, it updates issues and recommendations from the 2012 Gender Assessment and discusses how USAID's strategy in the country context is well equipped to incorporate and address gender issues over the life of the strategy.

Background

In 2012, USAID/Mali conducted a gender assessment as part of its CDCS process. Subsequent to the completion of the gender assessment and prior to completing the CDCS, Mali was victim to two simultaneous complex crises – a Northern rebellion and a coup/counter coup attempt – both events left lasting impacts on the development outcomes across the country and reoriented USAID's strategy in Mali. In a broader sense, Mali was left in a state of paralysis, with unprecedented levels of violence, government failure and a fractured society. As the country has worked to overcome these crises, USAID has adjusted its strategy appropriately, taking into account the underlying causes of the conflict and the resulting impacts on Malian ways of life. Importantly, USAID's strategy incorporates efforts to strengthen resilience, thereby increasing adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities and households to climate shocks and stresses, improving conflict mitigation capabilities, diversifying livelihoods and strengthening human capital. Under this pretext, USAID's strategy addresses various aspects of gender, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues. In conjunction with USAID/Mali's traditional development interventions in health, agriculture, economic growth and democracy and governance is an understanding that mandating a gender-sensitive approach to programming will improve the likelihood of success in each sector, resulting in a better use of resources and more sustainable and effective development outcomes.

Complicating development efforts while providing learning opportunities, is the coordinated fight against the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa. As the Mission works to mitigate the negative effects a continued and sustained outbreak would have on Mali's health systems, its workers, and the use of essential reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health services, USAID recognizes the unique opportunity to take advantage of structures, relationships and communication tools that have been introduced throughout the isolated EVD clusters in Mali. In recognition that gender roles can impact the detection, spread, containment and prevention of EVD because women, men, girls and boys can experience crisis differently, USAID/Mali is targeting decision-makers, medical personnel, aid workers and security staff responding to the EVD crisis. Sectoral considerations for EVD response are included below.

Today, Mali is moving in a direction that will improve the lives of its citizens - especially women and youth. The conflict destroyed normal life for hundreds-of-thousands of Malians from both sexes, however, it also drew attention to the status of women and girls across Mali and enables USAID to

capitalize on a renewed sense of vigor as citizens demand rights from the State and donor countries re-engage the Government to pursue development outcomes.

Under these pretexts, USAID/Mali revisited its gender assessment to create an addendum responding to unique development challenges resulting from the situational changes in the operating environment – confronting issues such as internally displaced persons and the persistent security risk in the North. In accounting for these new realities, USAID/Mali has adjusted programs to incorporate a transition initiative in its CDCS as Mali moves towards a more stable status quo and has adapted longer-term development programs to incorporate resilient, sustainable development activities. This addendum focuses on those issues which were most affected by the conflict and which are within USAID’s manageable interest to address through available resources and programming.

Current Gender Situation in Mali

Since the 2012 analysis, there has been relatively little change in the general situation, where Mali remains near the bottom of most indices:

- Human Development Index (HDI): Mali dropped one spot, from 175th out of 187 countries in 2012 to 176th out of 189 countries in 2014.¹ The HDI takes into account income, life expectancy at birth, the rate of adult literacy and school enrollment, among other development indicators.
- Gender Inequality Index (GII): Mali dropped five spots, from 143rd out of 146 countries in 2012 to 148th out of 152 countries.² The GII draws attention to major deficits in human development due to gender inequality, such as reproductive health, empowerment and economic activity.
- Gender Related Development Index (GDI): Mali ranks 143rd out of 148 countries.³ The GDI measures gender gap in human development in health (male & female life expectancy at birth), education (male & female expected and mean years of schooling), command over economic resources (male & female estimated earned income). This ranking takes equally into consideration gender gaps hurting females and males.
- In addition, there have been multiple cases of kidnapping and rape of women following the April 2012 seizure of control by separatists and jihadists in the North.

These rankings are indicative of the fact that the 2012 conflict in Mali held hostage many efforts to improve these rankings through Government of Mali intervention and targeted development assistance. While the traditional values and practices that impact gender equality continue, the conflict and consequences of lawlessness have created additional gaps and needs for the people of Mali. One of the most blatant examples of this is Gender Based Violence (GBV). As with conflicts the world over, incidences of GBV and the means through which it is committed were exacerbated by the conflict and present new challenges to gender equality and programming in Mali. As was concluded in the 2012 gender analysis, key gender disparities include unequal access to financial resources, very limited capacity for women to engage in decision-making in families, low level of female leadership within state structures, and prominent representation of men in elective institutions. Conflict inevitably impacts these

¹ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

² <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-4-gender-inequality-index>

³ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-5-gender-related-development-index-gdi>

aspects of gender and further affects social constructs, reducing women's access to, control over, and benefit from resources, wealth and opportunities. These reasons, among others, will continue contributing to negative scores in gender-parity indicators.

Recently, the Government of Mali (GOM) has wavered in its efforts to promote and defend female empowerment and gender equality. In July 2014, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a law promoting women's participation in political arenas. Despite this encouraging sign, the law was not enacted as a result of a February 2015 National Assembly vote, resulting in a defeat for this important step to deconstructing one of the major barriers to female empowerment and gender equality. While the 2012 report discusses the GOM's commitment to female empowerment and gender equality, including among sex workers and the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender (LGBT) populations, it is no longer apparent that such initiatives enjoy wide support across the Malian government.

Continuing the fight for reform and serving as a catalyst and coordinator for gender-responsive actions to other ministries and implementing programs focused on women's strategic interests, the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family (le Ministre de la Promotion de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille – MPFEF) has remained the leader on gender-related issues in Mali. As noted in the Beijing Report + 20, MPFEF has had successes in advocating for gender inclusive policies and laws in Mali. Despite documented improvements in this area, there remain several obstacles to achieving equality between sexes. A major obstacle for women continues to be the lack of a quota law for women's participation in political bodies - reinforced by the aforementioned National Assembly vote. Since 2007, women have not made up more than 15.5% of candidates for any one election. The MPFEF continues to hold as a major goal the adoption of a quota law to encourage and increase participation of women in political processes in Mali, in addition to the 2013-2017 National HIV/AIDS Strategy includes the protection of the human rights of key populations at risk for HIV, including female sex workers and LGBT populations as a key goal.

Overall, the GOM appears to have lost ground in its commitment to fostering gender equality. USAID/Mali continues to work to promote women's participation in the peace and security, political and civil society processes. The ongoing peace process presents opportunities to engage women, youth and other disenfranchised groups in the process.

Democratic Governance

USAID/Mali's CDCS recognizes that all of our traditional program areas - health, education, and economic growth – require improved governance and resilience to succeed. And, given Mali's ranking near the bottom of the worldwide Gender Inequality Index, a transparent, accountable, and responsive government is essential to ensuring that women have equal access to justice, health care, education, and economic resources as well as empowerment over their reproductive health and livelihoods.

Therefore, activities that correct inequities and advance the rights of women will be addressed across sectors and in each of the awards. The Mission strategy aims to instill good governance in all program areas, particularly as it impacts women. Although all segments of society, outside of the elite, struggle to make their voices heard, women are especially underrepresented in decision-making positions. Less than 8% of Malian judges are female and only 14 of the 147 Members of Parliament are women. In the

security sector, women constitute only 10% of the army, 13% of the police, and 7% of the gendarmerie (which only began to recruit women around 2009). The capacity of Mali to achieve its development goals is severely limited because women and girls are not represented in decision-making positions or presented with avenues to contribute their perspectives. The post-conflict/post-coup government seems to realize the important role that women and girls have to play and is open to finding new ways to encourage their participation.

Recommendations for Responsive and Accountable Government Service:

- Ensure the GOM takes women into account in both policy and budget formulation;
- Provide platforms for women to express their interests and concerns to government;
- Organize and strengthen women's civil society organizations;
- Provide women with an opportunity to be part of the peace process;
- Encourage linkages between MPFEF and the other Ministries;
- Support GOM's efforts to achieve gender equality and female empowerment in Mali;
- Advocate for wages and/or access to funds generated from the sale of cash crops;
- Ensure gender equity issues are included in monitoring checklists and that gender considerations are incorporated into all recommendations; and
- Human rights and anti-slavery support should incorporate gender-sensitive programming and ensure it addresses the specific rights and needs of women as well as men.

Recommendations for Administration of Justice and Respect for Human Rights:

- Encourage the establishment of regional offices of MPFEF with a representative of the Government of Mali in each region of the country;
- Provide female professionals to mentor other females in their fields, eg; the International Association of Women Judges could provide mentoring for female judges;
- Provide remedial and leadership training to women officials, as well as to male officials who occupy key positions;
- Ensure journalists in USAID-supported investigatory journalism efforts receive adequate training in equal rights and gender as well as specific training on gender analysis in the areas investigated;
- Enable women and men to have access to justice; and
- Ensure women have equal access to government services from health care, education, and agriculture to justice.

Recommendations for Women's Participation in Malian Electoral Process:

- Identify female and male champions of gender reform for inclusion in USAID programs and within the recommended priority institutions (justice, oversight, and parliament);
- Promote networking between women champions of reforms and civil society advocacy groups that lobby for equity and monitor government actions, including advocating for an independent bar association for attorneys and judges;
- Encourage development of a multi-party women's group in the Assembly that meets regularly and develops a common platform on critical issues related to women's rights and participation;
- Link female deputies with high ranking female government officials;

- Facilitate linkages of women parliamentarians with women candidates, locally elected women officials, and prominent local women to enable a more representative local and national government and provide encouragement for women running for office; and
- Facilitate linkages of women’s cooperatives, civil society organizations, and entrepreneurs with women parliamentarians to ensure their voices are heard and their interests and needs are met.

Education

As noted in the 2012 Gender Assessment, access to education has improved in the last five years across Mali. Affecting these gains, the conflict in the North resulted in massive flows of people, greatly disrupting livelihoods and efforts to educate children. Over the last year, many IDPs and refugees have returned to their homes. Despite this sense of normalization, as of April 2014, there remain 137,096 internally displaced persons (IDPs)⁴ and as of November 2014, 143,000 refugees in neighboring countries, including Algeria, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger and Togo.⁵ Many of the IDPs and refugees are women and children. Enrollments in schools in the country’s central and southern regions have risen beyond schools’ capacity, as a result of population flows.

In addition to stresses placed by human flows, there still exist considerable gaps between literacy levels and enrollment rates for boys and girls, especially in rural areas, where literacy and enrollment are much lower for girls than boys. For USAID/Mali, this means programming in areas that encourage a return to school/education and options for youth who are above school age but seek vocational and professional training.

In the Northern regions of Gao, Timbuktu, and Kidal, many schools have been destroyed, closed and/or occupied by either the army or the invading jihadists fighters. The 2012 crisis has created a difficult school environment for all students, especially for girls with an increased number of violence in the form of rape and sexual abuse. In addition, Mali’s youth, underserved by this system and now struggling to recover from the effects of violent conflict, lack the basic skills and abilities they need to earn a living in the Malian economy. Youth as a whole make up 69 percent of Mali’s population and the vast majority of them are uneducated and unemployed. This situation is especially critical for female youth whom only four in ten have gone to school. In these contexts, prior gains in increasing access risk being lost, and support to improve equitable access, the quality of instruction and contextualize learning for potentially traumatized student populations from both sexes will be important to provide.

Using current information on the consequences of the coup and its related negative effects (Ministry of Education cluster reports, MPFEF and other development partners reports), USAID/Mali recognizes that young male and female students need relevant role models in schools to provide mentoring and counseling support. Education programs have been working in collaboration with other key actors including the Government and UNICEF to enroll 70,000 conflict-affected children from both sexes across Mali in fiscal year 2014 through the government’s “Back to school” initiative.

Recommendations:

⁴ <http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/IOM-Mali-DTM-April-2014-EN.pdf>

⁵ <http://data.unhcr.org/SahelSituation/country.php?id=501>

- Continue programs targeting out of school youth – a particular emphasis should be placed on rural populations and young girls/women to address gaps related to enrollment, drop-out rates and literacy rates;
- Work to reconstruct educational facilities to encourage returns of IDPs and refugees;
- Train opinion leaders including imams, traditional healers, chiefs, and youth groups to advocate the benefits of girls education and the negative impacts of early marriage, youth pregnancies, female genital cutting, gender-based violence, and other gender inequities and discrepancies which result in multiple psychological and physical problems including shock, fistula, suicide, severe infections, paralysis and death;
- Provide safety to and in schools, psycho-social and well-being support, and promote resilience, reconciliation, inclusion, tolerance, conflict mitigation, and preparedness to respond to emergencies;
- Utilize mobile technology to monitor progress toward safety and response to emergencies; and
- Support the Ministry of Education’s efforts to concretely and visibly support gender equity and equality in education.

Health

The conflict exacerbated many health outcomes in Mali, principally, the rates of GBV related to the conflict, in addition to the closing and looting of many health centers in conflict-affected areas. In addition, as sex-workers (SWs) moved from conflict affected areas to the South, the potential for increased spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections presented new obstacles to achieving sought after health objectives. While traditional instances of GBV continue to endure, gender-based violence related to movements in people, including trafficking-in-persons, has emerged since the 2012 report. While gaps related to GBV are highlighted here, the Health Project Appraisal Document and the 2012 gender assessment also raise several issues that were potentially exacerbated by the conflict, including: early marriage; women’s decision-making abilities and lack of agency; reduced education, which contributes to higher fertility rates; and nutritional taboos for women and girls which impedes healthy nutrition practices. In addition to conflict, the EVD outbreak raised the need for preparedness for other epidemics and diseases particularly as they impact women.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The 2012 Assessment documents attitudes and perceptions of gender-based violence across Mali. Many of these attitudes and behaviors towards GBV have not changed since the conflict, however, reports and studies on GBV in the months following the April 2012 seizure of control by separatists and jihadist forces in the North (Gao, Timbuktu, and Kidal), describe the systematic destruction of homes, businesses, public buildings, and religious and cultural edifices. They also list multiple cases of kidnapping and rape of women and the forced marriage of many hapless young women to members of invading forces followed by the rape of the “brides” by their “husbands” and colleagues. Human Rights Watch expressed concern that, for the most part, women who had been raped did not report their abuse due to a combination of deep shame and fear of the negative consequences within their own families and communities. These reports lend credence to the claim that all women who were resident in these areas during this period were wholesale victims of GBV.

In 2013, the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) for Mali was published. The 2013 DHS sheds light on attitudes and behaviors towards GBV in Mali. Some statistics help put the issue in context: 38% of women have experienced GBV and 13% of women have experienced sexual violence. The DHS also notes that 76% of women think it is acceptable for a man to beat a woman for one of the following reasons: when a woman burns food, argues with a man, goes out without telling a man, is negligent with children, and/or refuses to have sexual relations with the man. At the same time, 54% of men believe it is acceptable to beat a woman for one of the same reasons. The entrenched attitudes and beliefs provide a challenging context in which to operate to combat violence against women.

In addition to abuses against Malian women in domestic relationships are violations related to trafficking in persons – specifically, women from neighboring countries who are trafficked to Mali, often at very young ages - ranging from 15 to 19. Sometimes, parents of trafficked girls are told that their daughters will work in hair salons or restaurants. In reality, some girls are forced into sex work. When trafficked girls and women realize the gravity of their situation and the lack of viable economic prospects outside of sex work, they are sometimes coerced into continued sex work through various means, including withholding food. Those trafficked also discussed corruption at border crossings and needing to pay bribes. In the conducting of this addendum, USAID did not identify any cases of boys or adult men being trafficked into Mali for sex work. In other domains, both boys and girls are susceptible to trafficking for labor in mines though the activities in which they are involved are very different. Girls perform both non-sexual work in mines as well as sex work; on the other hand, boys appear to be largely working in mines and not doing sex work.

Recommendations:

- Raise awareness of the benefits of gender equality and ending traditional practices that mistreat and harm girls (e.g. early marriage and pregnancy leading to fistula);
- Integrate advocacy messaging against girl's early marriage and pregnancy in mosques, schools, and youth groups in appropriate health-related programs;
- Continue programs working in conflict affected regions to provide psychosocial counseling for victims of rape and other GBV;
- Train health care providers to provide psychosocial services to trauma (including rape) survivors;
- Train health providers to be alert to and address possible domestic violence experienced by clients;
- Transmit social and behavior-change communication messages and interpersonal communications on prevention of gender based violence;
- Train opinion leaders including imams, traditional healers, chiefs, and youth groups to advocate the benefits of girls education and the negative impacts of early marriage, youth pregnancies, female genital cutting, gender-based violence, and other gender inequities and discrepancies which result in multiple psychological and physical problems including shock, fistula, suicide, severe infections, paralysis and death;
- Ensure that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) support the development of a national strategy for transitional justice that integrates a gender perspective into the strategy and addresses justice needs of victims of gender-based violence;
- Encourage partners to coordinate complementary services in family planning/reproductive health, literacy, health, education and other sectors;

- Any support for legal aid should ensure easy access for women/LGBT and have gender-sensitive interviews and support.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and Sex Worker (SW) Violence

USAID's gender policy and associated guidance asks Missions to include considerations on LGBT human rights and GBV against these sub-populations, as well as human trafficking. USAID's Gender Policy considers violence against LGBT individuals to be GBV. In February 2014, a cross-sectorial TDY focusing on an inclusive, integrated approach to human rights looked at factors identified in the assessment as well as mission and post reporting. This TDY recommended addressing GBV and the needs of vulnerable persons. Additionally, USAID funded a 2013 study of experiences of violence and human rights abuses towards gay men and lesbians in Mali, including recent violence faced by gay men in Mopti and Niono. Focus groups with gay men and with Sex Workers (SW) were held and provided additional primary data. The conflict in the North has caused an influx of displaced SWs to the south. Definitive numbers and percentages of SWs among IDPs is not available, SWs living in the south noted that they have had fewer clients as SWs newly arrived from the North had taken them. Some SWs provided SW services to UN and French soldiers. We did not hear of any immediate effects of the conflict in the North on MSMs.

Though Mali is one of only fourteen African countries without a law criminalizing homosexuality, societal discrimination continues to prompt sporadic violence towards the LGBTs. Malian NGO ARCAD-SIDA, financed by USAID, released Mali's first human rights report outlining discrimination faced by the LGBTs in January 2014. The report summarizes personal testimonies from 135 gay men and women around the country. Documented abuses include discrimination, verbal abuse, lynching, beatings, "corrective" rape of one lesbian woman, and illegal detentions. This discrimination and violence results in LGBTs hiding themselves away, dropping out of school, avoiding necessary medical treatment, or maintaining employment. The Malian Association for Human Rights (AMDH) used ARCAD-SIDA's report to create a task force of human rights organizations to discuss LGBT issues under the banner of HIV/AIDS treatment and human rights. The U.S. Embassy is working to support these efforts.

The 2013-2017 National HIV/AIDS Strategy includes the protection of the human rights of key populations at risk for HIV, including female sex workers and LGBT populations as a key goal. The National AIDS Program has set up a task force to monitor achievement of this goal.

Recommendations:

- Record and address violence and discrimination against LGBTs;
- Provide psycho-social services to LGBT victims of violence and rape;
- Record and address rape of sex workers and provide them with psycho-social services; and
- Explore opportunities to partner with women, LGBT and youth led civil society organizations.

Ebola Preparedness

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is rampaging across Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia and as of March 2015 had claimed more than 9,823 lives.⁶ Mali shares an expansive border with Guinea and to date, through coordinated efforts has successfully managed two EVD clusters, resulting in seven deaths and nine cases.

⁶ <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html>

The Government of Mali and the international community have learned important lessons from the EVD outbreak, specifically, the devastation a sustained outbreak would have on Mali's health systems and infrastructure. In addition, an important lesson from those countries more profoundly impacted, that women, as primary health-care providers, are affected at higher rates than males. Incorporating gender sensitive messaging, understanding the most at-risk populations and the role gender plays in combating the outbreak are essential steps in preparing for and managing EVD. USAID has provided thorough analysis of gender roles in EVD and provided recommendations for EVD programming. See the December 2014/January 2015 *USAID Gender Analysis and Recommendations: US Government Strategy to Address the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa* report.

Recommendations:

- Incorporate recommendations from the December 2014/January 2015 *USAID Gender Analysis and Recommendations: US Government Strategy to Address the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa* report into EVD programming;
- Reinforce social and behavior change communication messages of diseases including ebola; and
- Develop multi-sectoral coordination and response on prevention and control of ebola and other diseases.

Agriculture

The conflict, coup and EVD have had lesser impacts on USAID's agricultural and economic development programs, however, movements in people, lost and negatively affected harvesting seasons and climate irregularities have impacted programming in these areas. With 66% of the labor force employed in agriculture,⁷ it is essential that USAID account for gender equality with any programming related to this sector. Given the large workforce, agricultural activities that incorporate gender sensitive and inclusive approaches can have major impacts on equality. Activities such as working with village chiefs to grant women's groups land for cultivation are important programs to break down traditional barriers and involve whole populations in the gender discussion. USAID/Mali aligned its ongoing gender inclusion efforts to USAID's 2012 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy framework, guiding programming to address issues outlined in targeted gender assessments for each intervention area.

Recommendations:

- Implement the recommendations of the gender assessments that are being conducted in the Feed the Future (FTF) projects. FTF is a USAID Presidential initiative to combat hunger and malnutrition worldwide;
- Strengthen literacy, technical and business skills of female partners to increase economic opportunities and close knowledge gaps in the rice, millet and sorghum value chains;
- Utilize women in the construction of small irrigation dams to expand lowland rice cultivation raises yields and household revenues;
- Partner with women's cooperatives to build warehouses to facilitate storage and commercialization of crops and heighten overall quality;
- Provide threshing machines and rice-hullers to reduce the intensive manual labor of processing and harvesting crops, freeing up time for women to reinvest in their business and families;

⁷ <http://globaleledge.msu.edu/countries/mali/economy>

- Empower women to have a role in the management of the revenues generated from the cash crops cultivated by the family;
- Improve women’s abilities in livestock production, trade, marketing and business management skills, such as numeracy and leadership;
- Ensure that women have access to government supplies and services including seeds and other subsidized inputs;
- Utilize findings of gender assessments for targeting and integrating women into the livestock value chain; include methods of addressing the gender inequality of small ruminant sales;
- Assist women returnees to the banks of the Niger River in the North have access to land, inputs, and equipment to enable them to restart agriculture production and rebuild their lives; and
- Assist women gain access to land for agricultural production and credit for inputs and equipment.

Global Climate Change

The Gender Analysis for USAID/Mali’s Climate Change Adaptation Project Appraisal Document (PAD) was conducted in October and November 2013 and informs the design of the Mali Climate Change Adaptation Project (M-CCAP) and subsequent activities/implementing mechanisms. A study of a climate services program in Mali commissioned by USAID demonstrates that women and men from the same village often grow different crops, are engaged in different activities (e.g., water collection, wood harvesting, small-scale enterprise) and have different adaptive options (e.g., migration-for-labor). In short, men and women are likely to be impacted differently by climate change.

Recommendation:

- Utilize findings of the Gender Analysis in USAID/Mali’s Climate Change Adaptation PAD to develop activities and mechanisms that support women’s livelihoods.

Implications for USAID Programming

In terms of USAID programming, the crises since the coup have created new priorities for each technical sector – agriculture and economic growth, democracy and governance, education, and health – and a need for them to incorporate the post-coup vulnerabilities of the population, especially women and youth. USAID’s management structure under the 2014 Results Framework demands a cross-sectorial approach to development assistance in Mali. This means that to achieve the goal of Malians securing a democratic, resilient and prosperous future, each operating unit will have to work across sectors to ensure that results impact each Development Objective. Only through incorporating gender into all programming will USAID and the people of Mali achieve their goal.