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USAID AND SWISS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SUPPORT TO LEGISLATIVES ELECTIONS IN MALI MARCH-APRIL 2020

Empowering Malians through Election, Reform and Governance Efforts (EMERGE) is co-funded by USAID and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Starting in January 2018, the \$16.2 million, six-year project aims to advance peace, reconciliation, and more accountable governance through credible and inclusive national elections. EMERGE will provide support for the legislative elections scheduled for March 29 and April 19 through the following activities:

PROMOTE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 LEGISLATIVES ELECTIONS

- The civil society platform, CEPE (Public Engagement Charter for Emergence) conducted door-to-door campaigns in Bamako, Mopti, and Sikasso focused on motivating citizens to register to vote and to verify their registration information. EMERGE will now conduct a coordinated national get out the vote campaign.
- EMERGE shared its findings from a national poll conducted at the end of 2019 that gathered data on electoral process engagement and citizen perceptions from over 2,028 respondents.
- To help journalist produce more professional reports on the electoral process, Internews' Golden Rules of Journalism - 20 rules for local radios on conflict-sensitive journalism during elections period – will be shared in collaboration with URTEL (*Union des Radios et Télévisions Libres du Mali*), the agency responsible for regulating television and radio transmissions. They will also train 10 radio community stations and women journalists for professional coverage.

SUPPORT POLITICAL PARTIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO A PEACEFUL ELECTORAL PROCESS

- The National Democratic Institute (NDI) will organize training on data collection tools for the national and regional monitoring committees that ensure compliance with the code of conduct ahead of the legislative elections.
- In collaboration with Internews, NDI will hold a pilot debate in Sikasso on the importance of the legislative elections as well as convene working groups in Sikasso, Bamako and Mopti to organize debates between political party representatives on key issues in the legislative elections in order to foster a culture of structured and moderated political debates.



STRENGTHEN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE THROUGH DOMESTIC NATIONAL MONITORS

- The Coalition for Citizen Election Observation in Mali (*Coalition de l'Observation Citoyenne des Élections au Mali*), also known as COCEM, will deploy observers based on a propositional distribution of trained monitors. COCEM will cover all of Mali's regions and constituencies at the municipal, local, regional, and national level through its existing network of experienced national observers. Results from their observations of the two-phased election will be drafted into a report and released publicly.
- Since the 2018 presidential elections, COCEM's 1,461 observers are receiving refresher training on the electoral law, requirements for the legislative electoral campaign and the strategy on electoral card distribution before being deployed throughout the country.
- Long-term observers will oversee monitoring of any violence associated with the electoral process and provide reports with the National Early Warning Center and communicate with USAID's activities working on peace and stabilization.

SUPPORT TO INCREASE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- The Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians in Mali (REFAMP) and the Young Women Leaders' Network (REJEFPO) monitored published candidate lists for legislative compliance with the Gender Quota Law 052, requiring that 30% of the candidates are women.
- REFAMP and REJEFPO will conduct step-down training in villages surrounding the 64 district seats to comply with the Gender Quota Law 052. The two networks will continue to advocate for an effective implementation of the Law, passed in 2015 and being applied for the first time to legislative elections.
- EMERGE also is distributing a guide to women candidates on elections and offering refresher training for women candidates on strategic communication during the electoral campaign.