



## COUNTRY PROFILE



USAID/Mali

*Maimouna Sidibé Coulibaly, founder and owner of Faso Kaba, a seed company in Mali.*

### OVERVIEW

Through more than 50 years of partnership, USAID has contributed to major development gains that improve the lives of the Malian people. For example, USAID founded farmer cooperatives and improved irrigation methods to help Mali meet increasing food demands, established a community school system and interactive radio instruction to increase access to education, and expanded health services that led to dramatic reductions in child mortality. After the March 2012 coup d'état, USAID put non-lifesaving programs on hold. However, following peaceful democratic elections and the inauguration of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta on September 4, 2013, we began working with the Government of Mali to resume foreign assistance more broadly, including education and governance programs, while also adapting continued activities to the new Government's priorities.



### PROGRAMS

#### AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

With 80 percent of its population engaged in agricultural activities, the sector is the cornerstone of Mali's economy and holds great potential for driving economic growth. U.S. investments increase agricultural productivity; promote the adoption of yield-increasing technologies, extend soil and water conservation practices; strengthen input market development; improve the quality of key food commodities; support the commercialization of surpluses; and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change. Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, increases agricultural and nutrition by delivering technology and knowledge, and building local institutional capacity to spur a vibrant private sector-led approach to achieve economic and food security.

#### DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOVERNANCE

Our programs empower Malians to play an important role at the local level of a decentralized government system. The approach consists of developing partnerships with a range of actors—local elected authorities, civil society, and the private sector—to find solutions to local development issues. The aim is to strengthen the capacity of elected communal leaders to be effective in providing basic services to their

#### MALI SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1960  
Population: 15.9 million (2013)  
GDP per person: \$1,100 (2012)

Source: CIA World Factbook

#### USAID IN MALI

<http://www.usaid.gov/mali>



## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

constituencies and to provide them with technical assistance in financial management and budget preparations in order to improve accountability and transparency in the commune management system. USAID also trains civil society organizations (with a focus on women and youth) in management, advocacy, and civic education so they can contribute to and monitor the work of elected leaders and commune council members.

### EDUCATION

USAID programs improve the quality of instruction in primary and upper-primary schools and promote out-of-school youth employment.

### ENVIRONMENT

A majority of the population lives by subsistence agriculture, and developing resilience to climate change is an integral part of their livelihood. Sound environmental management is essential to reduce the risks associated with climate change and climatic events. The Global Climate Change Initiative in Mali addresses pressing climate adaptation issues through the extension of small irrigation infrastructure for rice, improved natural resource management practices, and improved agronomic practices in millet/sorghum production.

### GLOBAL HEALTH

The country continues to face serious challenges in the health sector, with some of the world's worst health indicators. Under terrorist occupation, nearly all health facilities in northern Mali were ransacked in 2012, and internally displaced people overtaxed the health system in the south. USAID supports the goals and principles of the Global Health Initiative to improve health through sustainable approaches and increased country ownership. Our activities improve: access, quality, and use of family planning and maternal and child health services; coverage and use of key malaria interventions; access to water and sanitation; and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services.

### WORKING IN CRISIS AND CONFLICT

We launched the Mali Transition Initiative in January 2013 to help lay the groundwork for longer-term political and economic development. The effort focuses on mitigating conflict and decreasing chances of unrest in the lead up to elections to help build the foundations for a peaceful and democratic Mali.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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