



# Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Appraisal Stage

### **(ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 09/25/2024 | Report No: ESRSA03708

**I. BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Operation Data**

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P505025	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Mali CRISP	2025
Operation Name	Mali Community Resilience and Inclusive Services Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Mali	Mali	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Social Sustainability and Inclusion
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
The Republic of Mali	Ministry of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion	25-Sep-2024	14-Nov-2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
25-Sep-2024	150,000,000.00		

**Proposed Development Objective**

The objective of the Project is to improve access to basic services responsive to community priorities in at-risk areas.

**B. Is the operation being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?**

No

**C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities**

This project will work with local communities to improve access to basic services and small-scale infrastructure. It will use an inclusive planning approach to address the multi-sectoral needs and improve the living conditions of populations in newly stabilized and fragile areas of the country. The Government aims to deliver a package of critical services in two types of geographic areas: (i) communes affected by the conflict that have recently come under control of the State in northern Mali (Kidal, Tombouctou, Taoudenni); and (ii) fragile communes where improved services will contribute to prevent an escalation of tensions in the south (Nara, Nioro, Kayes). The Government is particularly interested in assisting areas in the north and southern regions where a large part of the population has fled due to violence and conflict and where it is expected that improved services and economic opportunities will contribute to the gradual



return of the displaced. It is estimated that the project will cover approximately 850 villages and 57 communes in these six regions of the country. The geographical targeting within these regions will remain flexible given the uncertainty of the field security situation.

## **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

### **D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings**

This project will intervene in the at-risk areas in the North (Kidal, Tombouctou, Taoudenni), and South (Nara, Nioro and Kayes) that might be vulnerable to destabilization. Mali's FCV context that includes terrorist and other violent incidents and intercommunal conflicts has hindered service delivery in these areas as well as caused significant internal displacement as people flee the violence and try to find safer areas. The areas that will be targeted by the project have suffered from lack of basic services and infrastructure, which has fueled frustration and distrust in the government and fostered a feeling of exclusion and marginalization. By improving services and socioeconomic infrastructure, the project aims to also attract people to return to these areas.

A significant portion of Mali remains outside the reach of state services. In 2018, 38 percent of rural households did not have access to an improved drinking water supply; 61 percent had limited installations to wash hands; and 62 percent of households did not have access to electricity. In 2017, only 22 percent of rural populations were within two kilometers of an all-season road. Growing insecurity has meant that about 20% of schools (or 1,917 schools affecting 574,100 students) and 13 health centers affecting 91,572 users in a subset of the country were closed (data from march 2024). Mali's education system faces low enrollment, poor outcomes, a lack of teachers at the basic and secondary levels, and a growing school-age population. In terms of health outcomes, Mali suffers from persistently high maternal and child mortality rates, high adolescent fertility rates, low basic child immunization coverage, malnutrition and a relatively high burden of infectious diseases. A critical shortage of health workers has left many regions without qualified medical care. In the energy sector, only ten percent of rural households are connected to the electricity grid, compared to 56 percent of urban households. Moreover, insecurity has led to the halting of major projects, which aimed to make up for the development gap compared to the rest of the country, in the North. In these localities, this feeling of exclusion and powerlessness of public authorities fuels the engagement of disillusioned population with extremist armed groups which have replaced the states in certain localities.

### **D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion. A Bamako based Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be established, and staffed with an environmental and a social safeguards specialist, a gender specialist, a grievance management (GM) specialist and a security management specialist. The PIU will be further supported by 6 regional antenna offices that will provide enhanced support for the daily implementation and supervision activities; the regional offices will be responsible for planning, implementation, monitoring and oversight of the project in their regions. The regional staff will include a Regional Coordinator and staff specializing in: financial management, procurement, ES, CDD, M&E, and security focal point. Social and technical facilitators will support communities to identify, prioritize, prepare, implement, and monitor their subprojects. An average of approximately ten villages will be assigned to each social and technical facilitator with some variation depending upon distances, security conditions, and local languages. The project will work closely with deconcentrated technical services to support the implementation of local sub-projects. The project will leverage existing Regional Reconciliation Support



Teams (ERAR, Equipes Régionales d'Appui à la Réconciliation) and Communal Reconciliation Committees (CCR, Comités Communaux de Réconciliation) under the MARN to ensure that facilitation activities contribute to broader reconciliation and social cohesion activities. Social, technical, and communal facilitators will report to the National Reconciliation Support Mission (MARN, Mission d'Appui à la Réconciliation Nationale), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Development. The terms of reference for the E&S staff have been approved by the Bank's team, and further training will be provided as necessary once the specialists are in place at the latest before the project activities begin.

## II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

### A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

#### A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The environmental risk is moderate. The project will aim to improve the livelihoods of members of the targeted local communities by improving access to basic services and small-scale infrastructure at village and commune level. Initiatives to improve natural resource management aim to restore degraded ecosystems and strengthen climate resilience. The activities planned under C1 and 2 of the project are expected to have limited to moderate environmental impacts. These impacts primarily include: (i) risks of deforestation, fragmentation of natural habitats, soil erosion, and temporary disturbance of local flora and fauna during road construction/rehabilitation; (ii) dust and gas emissions from operating construction equipment, and the risk of accidental spills of fuel and lubricants, which may pollute the air, water, and soil; (iii) environmental impacts related to construction materials, waste management, and site disturbances.

#### A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social risk rating is substantial due to the highly complex social context in the project areas, which are remote and rural and remain insecure and vulnerable. Key social risks relate to social cohesion and potential social conflicts as the project will intervene in areas where state has not been present for a number of years, basic services have not been available, quality of service delivery and access has not been monitored and hence expectations may run high and will need to be carefully managed. Exclusion from project benefits may lead to social tensions especially among IDPs and host communities as well as among various local communities. Functionality, legitimacy and capacity of the local organizations will also need to be assessed to ensure they can manage their role in implementing the activities. Capacity of local leaders and their legitimacy may also cause conflicts and contestation among the population. Insecurity in some of the project areas may also have an impact on the implementation of project activities, security and safety of the beneficiaries and access to some locations during implementation.

### B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

#### B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

##### ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

This standard is relevant. The main E&S risks relate to small-scale civil engineering works in components 1 and 2, which can have negative E&S risks and impacts. To ensure that these activities are properly managed, and that there



is an appropriate screening process once activities have been proposed for consideration, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be finalized prior to project approval. This ESMF will include various appendices and screening sheets, as well as model ESMPs and good practice notes for each type of sub-project (these ESMPs and good practice notes will be required before civil works commence, and any necessary mitigation measures will be incorporated into the tender documents). The environmental and social management framework will also include a waste management plan, a health and safety plan, an SEA/Health and Safety action plan, procedures for chance finds and a list of exclusions for the types of sub-projects that will not be financed. These procedures will be included in all contracts relating to construction, including excavation, demolition, earthworks or other modifications to the physical environment, as well as in the ESMP. In addition, an operational manual will be prepared and distributed at local level (commune and village) during project implementation. This manual will include all good practice notes and E&S procedures, including EAS/HS procedures, health and safety of workers during construction and operation phases, incidental findings procedures, E&S screening of sub-projects etc. This manual can also be translated into local languages and made available to beneficiaries in video, audio or other form.

#### ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

The standard is relevant. The Borrower has prepared a stakeholder engagement plan to identify key stakeholders and their communication needs as well as to gather their feedback on the engagement strategy. In addition, an innovative approach to CDD stakeholder engagement is part of component 3 and it includes the hiring of local level social facilitators to directly engage with stakeholders via community platforms and community monitoring. Some of their key tasks include identifying and assessing the level of project impact on stakeholders and their interest and support for the project. The platform will help build and maintain a constructive relationship, especially with project affected parties; and to promote and provide a platform for the effective and inclusive engagement with vulnerable groups throughout the project life cycle. Social facilitators will also be an important entry point for registering grievances. In coordination with Geo-Enabling Initiative for Monitoring and Supervision (GEMS), facilitators will use an app that follows the entire project cycle so they can regularly report on the progress of activities. This data will be open source and publicly available. At the community level, the Village Development Committees will have a subcommittee for community monitoring and grievance redress that will be responsible for also providing regular monitoring and reporting regarding project implementation. The ESF specific section in the GEMS application will help simplify the ES screening process by providing clear and accessible guidance. Consultations were held during 25-27 June, 2024 in Bamako, Kayes, Nara, Tomboctou and Kidal. Feedback received from participants included concerns regarding current low capacity at regional and local levels to manage basic socioeconomic services, lack of ownership of development projects by communities, risk of conflicts due to overall insecurity in the regions, land tenure arrangements and access to natural resources, desire for opportunities for participation in different stages of development projects and sustainability of the activities. Women's participation in the consultations was relatively limited. During implementation, the gender specialist in the PIU will work to incorporate measures and approaches to ensure that stakeholder engagement is tailored to include women in a manner that is accessible and effective. Further actions to increase women's voice and agency are included in component 3. The SEP was disclosed in-country on the website for the Ministry of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion, as well as by the Bank on September 24, 2024.

#### ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

The standard is relevant. The project is likely to include direct workers, contract workers and community workers (Comp. 1 at village level). To manage the mostly local labor force, the Borrower has prepared Labor Management



Procedures (LMP). The LMP specifies the terms and conditions of employment, non-discrimination and equal opportunities, workers' organizations, prohibition of child and forced labor, grievance redress mechanism for labor disputes, occupational safety and health measures for the workers and provisions to prevent and manage SEA/SH. To ensure health and safety of workers during the construction and operational phases of the project, the Borrower will develop and implement a Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) plan consistent with World Bank Group's Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG) for construction activities. The LMP was disclosed on the website for the Ministry of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion, as well as by the Bank on September 24, 2024.

### **ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

Relevant

This standard is relevant. Some of the activities funded by the project may generate pollution or waste. To manage these impacts, an ESMF will be developed before project approval. This framework will provide specific guidelines for pollution management and will include good practice measures as well as a waste management plan. The plan will cover key elements such as identifying types and quantities of waste, methods for reduction and reuse, procedures for collection and storage, and means of treatment and disposal. It will also include measures to ensure regulatory compliance, staff training, performance monitoring and evaluation, and transparent communication with stakeholders. These elements aim to minimize negative environmental impacts and ensure sustainable resource management throughout the project.

### **ESS4 - Community Health and Safety**

Relevant

This standard is relevant. Some of the areas targeted by the project are particularly vulnerable due to recurring violence and insecurity. Additionally, activities planned in regions with high populations of internally displaced persons (IDPs) could exacerbate pressure on resources, reduce available opportunities employment in the construction activities, and create tensions within and between communities. Given the volatility of the security situation in Mali and the associated risks for beneficiaries and project assets, the project will implement an adaptive approach, whereby there are menus of options for activities, short timelines for subproject implementation and the project have established a reserve list of geographical areas in case some areas are inaccessible due to insecurity. Security risk management measures will be included in the Operations Manual prior to project approval.

### **ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

Relevant

Components 1 and 2 will finance rehabilitation and construction of basic infrastructure at village and commune levels. This will be across sectors such as connectivity, water and sanitation, electrification, markets and health and education. To avoid and minimize involuntary resettlement, any investments that require land acquisition or physical resettlement will not be eligible for financing. For activities that may cause limited, temporary economic related impacts, the project will develop screening criteria and include measures for how to minimize and/or compensate in the operations manual.

### **ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

Not Currently Relevant

Project interventions are not expected to result in any loss of biodiversity, and will not be located in sensitive or protected areas. Potential sites for civil engineering works include existing infrastructure. The work may have moderate temporary impacts on environmental resources, including soils, water resources, ambient noise levels and



ambient air quality. After a thorough assessment of the types of activities and the specificities of the various intervention areas, ESS6 is not relevant at this stage. The appropriate selection mechanism and mitigation measures will be described in the ESMF, and the ESCP will include exclusion criteria to avoid impacts on environmentally sensitive areas.

**ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities**

Not Currently Relevant

N/A

**ESS8 - Cultural Heritage**

Not Currently Relevant

Project activities are not expected to take place near or on any known cultural heritage sites. However, construction activities related to rural road improvements may lead to the discovery of previously unknown (or unregistered) cultural heritage sites. The ES section of the Operations Manual will include guidance regarding how to screen for, identify and manage any “chance finds” that might be discovered during civil works. These procedures will be included in all contracts relating to the construction of the project, including excavation, demolition, earthworks or other modifications to the physical environment. Consultation processes will also involve local communities, cultural heritage experts and relevant authorities to ensure that procedures are in line with the ESS8 and national legislation.

**ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries**

Not Currently Relevant

N/A

**B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways**

Yes

**OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas**

No

**B.3 Other Salient Features**

**Use of Borrower Framework**

No

n/a

**Use of Common Approach**

No

n/a

**C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities**

**C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by implementation?**

The following instruments have been prepared and disclosed in-country and on the WBG external website: Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Labor Management Procedures, Environmental and Social Commitment Plan.



An Environmental and Social Management Framework will be part of the Operations manual that includes E&S screening guidance, SEA/SH aspects, and security management measures and will be prepared prior to project approval.

### III. CONTACT POINT

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### IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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### V. APPROVAL

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