# RAPID APPRAISAL REPORT

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE THEORY OF CHANGE OF APPUI À LA COHÉSION COMMUNAUTAIRE ET LES OPPORTUNITÉS DE RÉCONCILIATION ET DÉVELOPPEMENT (ACCORD) PROJECT

July 2018

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| ACCORD | Appui à la Cohésion Communautaire et les Opportunités de réconciliation et Développement |
| AECOM | Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations, and Maintenance |
| CDCS | Country Development Cooperation Strategy |
| CO | Contracting Officer |
| COP | Chief of Party |
| COR | Contracting Officer Representative |
| CVE | Countering Violent Extremism |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion |
| GOM | Government of Mali |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MPI | Mali Peace Initiative |
| MSI | Management Systems International |
| PDG | Peace, Democracy, and Governance |
| PMEP | Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Project |
| TOC | Theory of Change |
| TPM | Third-Party Monitoring |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Management Systems International (MSI) is pleased to present the Rapid Appraisal Report for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Mali Peace Initiative (MPI) Activity or "Appui à la Cohésion Communautaire et les Opportunités de Reconciliation et Développement (ACCORD)." ACCORD is funded by USAID and is a two-year, $8.2 million contract implemented by AECOM contract number AID-688-C-16-00005, Task Order number #2. ACCORD began on March 18, 2016 and is scheduled to be completed by March 30, 2018. This report includes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations that the evaluation team collected and developed during January 4 to 17, 2018.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

ACCORD is tasked to strengthen targeted communities' resilience to conflict and radicalization by working with Malian government actors and local communities by awarding small, in-kind grants to address priority development and reconciliation needs. ACCORD's goal is for those efforts to result in measurable improvement in the efficiencies and capacities of local communities to demonstrate resilience in the face of conflict and violent extremism.

ACCORD's three Strategic Objectives are: (1) citizen perceptions of Malian government actors in targeted areas improved; (2) communities' social and economic resilience to negative external influences strengthened; (3) participation of women and youth in political and peace processes improved

## RAPID APPRAISAL PURPOSE AND RATIONALE

USAID has requested the Mali Monitoring and Evaluation Platform (MSI), to conduct a rapid appraisal of the ACCORD's Project's Theory of Change to draw lessons from the project implementation. The appraisal was aimed at identifying the:

- Effect of service delivery and consensus-based processes on citizens' perceptions of governmental actor
- Effect of community engagement and countering extremist propaganda on community's ability to resist negative external influence
- Effect of capacity building for women and their involvement in the political process
- Sustainability mechanisms for community radio stations with the goal of providing social services

## APPRAISAL METHODS, AND LIMITATIONS

The evaluation team used a three-phase approach, which included a document review, focus group discussions (FGDs), and Data quality verification to provide insights into how project beneficiaries think and to provide a deeper understanding of the Mali peace initiative Activity. The team conducted 12 FGDs in 6 communities (Annex B) across two districts with 161 participants. There were some limitations to the appraisal design and methodology related to the time frame for the appraisal, the small sample size, and a disproportionately larger number of focus group conducted. Additional limitations include non-probabilistic, purposive sampling of communities; no quantitative analysis to determine

significant levels of responses to hypothesis; a sample size too small to achieve statistical significance; and an assessment period too close to project implementation to assess the effectiveness of the hypothesis.

## APPRAISAL QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

The rapid appraisal was required to test the truthfulness of the hypotheses upon which the project is based and to identify means of sustaining the provision of social services through radio. The entire project is based on three hypotheses and one appraisal question as follows:

**HYPOTHESIS 1:** When service delivery is improved and consensus-based processes strengthened, then citizen perception of the Governmental actors shall improve.

i: How can rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure change the perception of the citizens regarding the Malian government?

ii: What effect does community dialogue have on citizens' acceptance and ownership of community level interventions?

**HYPOTHESIS 2:** When community members are engaged in peace building processes and violent extremist propaganda is countered through the dissemination of counter-narratives, then communities would be strengthened to socially and economically resist negative external influences.

i: What are the best ways to strengthen communities against violence extremism?

ii: How have social, cultural and sport events contributed to build communities resilience against VE?

iii: How did ACCORD's activities directed towards Women and Youth increase their resilience against violent extremism?

**HYPOTHESIS 3:** When capacity of women is built, then they are more likely to engage in the political process.

**APPRAISAL QUESTION 4:** How can community radios with the goal of providing social services be sustained?

## APPRAISAL FINDINGS

H1: When service delivery is improved and consensus-based processes strengthened, then citizen perception of the Governmental actors shall improve

The appraisal team found that infrastructure has been constructed or rehabilitated in Berrah, Kounsoum, Lellehoye, and Tessit. However, Ansongo and Gao did not receive infrastructural support and therefore did not respond to this question. Infrastructure constructed for the 4 communities are as follows: two fully equipped multipurpose platforms in Berrah; a fully equipped multipurpose platform in Koumsoum and a well ; a fully equipped multipurpose platform and a well in Lellehoye; and construction and rehabilitation of town hall, construction of radio station and two multipurpose platfroms in Tessit.

The ACCORD project fully involved the communities in their activities, before, during, and after construction. Before implementation, the purpose of the construction was discussed and the community project to be contracted decided with the communities. Communities further formed monitoring committees to monitor and report on the progress during construction to the entire community. After construction, the project was meant to be managed by the beneficiaries.

**HOW CAN REHABILITATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGE THE PERCEPTION OF THE CITIZENS REGARDING THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT?**

Beneficiaries were divided by sex on their opinion as to whether they can give credit to the government for the various infrastructural development activities implemented in their communities by the ACCORD project. All 3 women's groups did not have a change of perception about the government after the ACCORD infrastructure development. The reason for their unmodified view of the government is that they did not observe the presence of governmental actors in the community during the implementation of activities. All 4 male dominated community elders' groups had changed of perceptions about the government due to the projects, believing that the ACCORD project was brought to their community through governmental policies and negotiation with other development partners.

**WHAT EFFECT DOES COMMUNITY DIALOGUE HAVE ON CITIZENS' ACCEPTANCE AND OWNERSHIP OF COMMUNITY LEVEL INTERVENTIONS?**

The predominately male community leaders in Berrah believe the project constructed by ACCORD belongs to the government rather than the community. The Radio group  believe the project belongs to the ACCORD project until August 2018 when the community would become owners of the project. They therefore did not think the community owned project.  All the other groups interviewed simply answered that the ACCORD project owns the infrastructural developments provided to the community. No group or community believed they were the owners of the project at the time of the appraisal. The Radio group and women's group in Tessit believe that ACCORD is responsible for the repairs and maintenance of the project for the community for an agreed time period. All the other remaining groups believe it is the responsibility of the community to carry out the maintenance and repairs of their facility. All the communities had strategies in place for generating funds to sustain the project.

H2: When community members are engaged in peace building processes and violent extremist propaganda is countered through the dissemination of counter-narratives, then communities would be strengthened to socially and economically resist negative external influences.

**BEST WAYS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES AGAINST VIOLENCE EXTREMISM**

ACCORD used five main approaches to strengthen communities against violence extremism. These are caravan of peace, community exchange visits, inter-community meetings, round table meetings, and inauguration of projects. Community beneficiaries of these strategies believe they are the best approaches to strengthening the communities against violence extremism.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND SPORTING EVENTS**

All the groups interviewed, except the Asongo Youth Football Club, have taken part in some social events organized by ACCORD to promote peace. Only the Asongo Youth Football Club, Tessit community elders, Tessit women and Tessit Radio groups had benefited from sporting activities organized by ACCORD Project. None of the groups interviewed had been involved in any cultural event organized by ACCORD.

## INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF WOMEN AND YOUTH AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM

For the women, the project built their capacity to enable them become agents of peace in their communities. This was coupled with income generation activities which enabled them to become autonomous financially. As a result, they became not only resistant to violent extremism but also peace promoters. For the youth, the project used counter extremist propaganda approaches including organizing social and sporting events, caravans of peace, peace talks through community durbars and radio programs, intercommunity dialogues, and exchange visits interwoven with peace talks by the military, religious leaders, community leaders and various group leaders such as women and youth groups are effective and needs to be continued. These approaches proved to be very effective in strengthening communities against violent extremism.

H3: When capacity of women is built, then they are more likely to engage in the political process.

There were significant increases in the number of women from Berrah (300%), Kounsoum (175%) and Lellohoye (100%) entering politics after receiving training from the ACCORD project. However, the results also show that in Asongo, Tessit and Gao, there were no increases in the number of women entering politics after receiving training.

## Q4: SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY RADIOS PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES

All the 6 radio stations interviewed focuses on providing information on social issues to the community. The main sources of financing the activities of the radio stations to enable them to continue providing social services are through the ACCORD project, donations from individual philanthropists, funds generated internally by the radio stations, and contributions by members of the radio stations. Respondents believe these sources of funding (except from the ACCORD project) would be sustainable. Additional methods of funding recommended by respondents are contributions from community members to support the station, institutionalizing service charges for advertisements, advocating for support from development partners and philanthropists, and promoting paid funeral announcements. Some radio stations have also developed policies that would enable them to ensure efficient management of their scare resources such as setting an upper limit on the amount management can use in a month to run the operations of the station beyond which they would need approval from a committee.

## CONCLUSIONS

How can rehabilitation and construction of infrastructures change the perception of the citizens regarding the Malian government?

For rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure to effectively change the perception of women and other men whose perception is yet to be changed, governmental actors must be seen to be part of the process of contraction from the inception through completion and management of the project.

Effect of Community Engagement and Countering Extremist Propaganda on the Community's Ability to Resist Negative External Influence

Engaging communities and propagating messages that counter negative external influence proved to be very effective in strengthening communities to resist negative external influence. Approaches found to be effective include organizing social and sporting events, caravan of peace, peace talks through community durbars and radio programs, intercommunity dialogues, and exchange visits interwoven with peace talks by the military, religious leaders, community leaders and various group leaders such as women and youth groups. Through these engagements, the beneficiary communities and groups are able to identify the entry strategies of violent extremist such as exploiting intra religious, racial and tribal differences. Communities are therefore able to identify the dangers ahead and sensitize its members to prevent the negative external influences entering into their community.

These capacity building activities are more effective when combined with income generating opportunities for beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are more likely to be successful in resisting violent extremism when they are financially independent and their capacity is built on the peace process.

### WOMEN CAPACITY BUILDING AND INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL PROCESS

The appraisal did not find enough evidence to suggest that building the capacity of women could get them more involved in the political process as 3 communities receiving capacity building support recorded increases in the number of women entering into the political process, however, the other 3 communities who received similar capacity building support recorded no increase in the number of women taking part in the political process.

### SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY RADIOS PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES

To sustain community radio stations providing social services, (i) there is the need to institutionalize internal revenue generation for social services such as funeral and marriage announcements and (ii) The is the need to ensure efficient management of the scarce resources.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Using Infrastructure Projects to Change Citizens' Perception about the Government

Governmental actors should be visibly involved in subsequent infrastructural projects from inception to completion. There should be a structured plan of involvement and their presence should be made public to the beneficiaries.

### STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES TO RESIST NEGATIVE EXTERNAL INFLUENCE

Future projects should continue to engage the beneficiary communities and further continue publicizing messages countering extremist propaganda. In addition to social and sporting events, cultural events should also be used to publicize information to counter negative external influences. Capacity building

on resisting negative external influence should be completed with income generation opportunities to make beneficiaries financially autonomous.

## GETTING WOMEN INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

There is the need for a mix method evaluation with a significant sample size and a representative sample to determine whether capacity building for women would lead to their involvement in the political process.

## SUSTAINING COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS FOCUSING ON PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES

Community Radio stations focusing on providing social services should be provided with technical support to institutionalize internal revenue generation and efficient

# INTRODUCTION

Management Systems International (MSI) is pleased to present the Rapid Appraisal Report for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Mali Peace Initiative (MPI) Activity or "Appui à la Cohésion Communautaire et les Opportunités de Reconciliation et Développement (ACCORD)." ACCORD is funded by USAID and is a two-year, $8.2 million contract implemented by AECOM contract number AID-688-C-16-00005, Task Order number #2. ACCORD began on March 18, 2016 and is scheduled to be completed by March 30, 2018. This report includes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations that the evaluation team collected and developed during January 4 to 17, 2018.

## APPRAISAL RATIONAL AND PURPOSE

USAID requested that the Mali Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Project (PMEP), implemented by MSI, provide a rapid appraisal of ACCORD's activities to draw lessons learned from the project activities implemented after a year and a half. The rapid appraisal conducted focus group discussions in 6 locations[1] where ACCORD worked. The objectives of this rapid appraisal were to determine:

- The effect of service delivery and consensus-based processes on citizens' perceptions of governmental actor;
- The effect of community engagement and countering extremist propaganda on communities' ability to resist negative external influence;
- The effect of capacity building for women and their involvement in the political process; and
- How to sustain community radio stations with the goal of providing social services

## PROJECT HYPOTHESIS AND APPRAISAL QUESTIONS

The appraisal team answered 6 questions derived from 3 development hypotheses.

HYPOTHESIS 1: WHEN SERVICE DELIVERY IS IMPROVED AND CONSENSUS-BASED PROCESSES STRENGTHENED, THEN CITIZEN PERCEPTION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS[2] SHALL IMPROVE.

i: How can rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure change the perception of citizens regarding the Malian government?

ii: What effect does community dialogue have on citizens' acceptance and ownership of community level interventions?

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[1] See Annex A: Rapid Appraisal Geographic Coverage

[2] Governmental actors include all governmental functionalist from national to the local government level. They also include civil and public servants.

HYPOTHESIS 2: WHEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ENGAGED IN PEACE BUILDING PROCESSES AND VIOLENT EXTREMIST PROPAGANDA IS COUNTERED THROUGH THE DISSEMINATION OF COUNTER-NARRATIVES, THEN COMMUNITIES WOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY RESIST NEGATIVE EXTERNAL INFLUENCES.

i: What are the best ways to strengthen communities against violence extremism?

ii: How did social, cultural and sporting events contribute to build communities' resilience against violence extremism?

iii: How did ACCORD's activities directed towards Women and Youth increase their resilience against violent extremism

HYPOTHESIS 3: WHEN CAPACITY OF WOMEN IS BUILT, THEN THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

APPRAISAL QUESTION 4: HOW CAN COMMUNITY RADIOS WITH THE GOAL OF PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES BE SUSTAINED?

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Mali Peace Initiative activity is the instrument that the USAID Mission is using to strengthen targeted communities' resilience to conflict and radicalization by working with Malian government actors and local communities on addressing priority development and reconciliation needs.

Given the fragile nature of the Malian state and the need to demonstrate tangible results of the Algiers Peace Accord, USAID looks to ACCORD to implement quick-impact activities. The intent is for those activities to respond to community needs through tangible development investments, challenging the worldview of individuals susceptible to extremism. These activities will generally be executed through the issuance of small in-kind grants. The activities will seek to reduce the isolation of targeted communities and increase the legitimacy of both local and central Malian government institutions through meaningful civic engagement, and to strengthen the resilience of at-risk groups against violent extremism.

ACCORD's three Strategic Objectives are:

1. Citizen perceptions of Malian government actors in targeted areas improved
2. Communities' social and economic resilience to negative external influences strengthened
3. Participation of women and youth in political and peace processes improved

The activity's overall development hypothesis is that by responding to community needs through tangible development investments, ACCORD will contribute to increasing the legitimacy of both local and central Malian governments through meaningful civic engagement, and help at-risk groups become more resilient against violent extremism. ACCORD will contribute directly to the USAID/Mali's Development Objective 2: Resilience—Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable Communities Increased. The activity will also complement activities under the Development Objective 1: Democratic Governance—Public Trust in Government Improved.

# METHODOLOGY

The MSI team used two main approaches to conduct this appraisal. First, to ensure that the designers of appraisal are able to reflect the context and ensure effective qualitative responses, the evaluation team reviewed the design documents of the project. The team also reviewed the various product reports and the internal evaluation report conducted by the project. Second, the appraisal team conducted 12 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in the 6 communities.

## APPRAISAL DESIGN

The appraisal used a purposive sampling method in selecting the communities. Two criteria served as the guide in the purposive sampling. First, the security situation in Northern Mali meant not all the beneficiary communities could be reached. The list of communities that could be reached at minimum risk at the time of the appraisal was identified and used as the "evaluation universe." Second, the relationship between the type of intervention carried out in the respective shortlisted communities and the learning questions were identified. All the communities that had activities directly linked to the learning questions were selected. The learning questions focused on infrastructure development, dissemination of messages countering extremist propaganda, capacity building for women to engage in the political process and establishment of community radio providing social services.

## KEY APPRAISAL IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

The implementation of the rapid appraisal involved five main steps as demonstrated on the figure 1 below.



**Development of Question Guide:** The Platform team held 2 meetings with the ACCORD project COR to discuss the project's Theory of Change (TOC) and to develop the learning questions for the appraisal. The learning questions were sent to the ACCORD project for their input and suggestions. Based on comments from the project, the questions were revised and finalized.

**Identification and Hiring of Research Assistants:** The ACCORD project support the process by identifying 3 experienced Research Assistants through a local consulting firm. To ensure that the best members were recruited, the firm identified 6 Research Assistants and conducted interviews with them, focusing on the candidates' experience in conducting qualitative interviews. Based on their performance, the firm narrowed down to the 3 best Assistants for the appraisal.

**Research Assistant Training:** MSI trained the Research Assistants to ensure clear understanding and communication. The training focused on understanding the appraisal questions, probing for quality responses, appraising communities' characteristics, the appraisal work plan, data processing and data transmission for the appraisal.

**Conducting Focus Group Discussion:** All the FGDs were conducted by the Research Assistants under the supervision of the locally hired consulting firm. In communities where men are not permitted to speak to women, the FGD for the women were conducted by the female Research Assistants. However, where it was acceptable, all 3 team members conducted the FGD.

**Data Analysis and Reporting:** The data collected was first synthesized into combined reporting from the 3 Research Assistants. These data were then coded manually and analyzed without the use of any qualitative software. Based on the analysis, MSI developed a Power Point (PPT) presentation and disseminated the findings to stakeholders in an event organized by the ACCORD project.

## DATA COLLECTION METHODS

The team used two main data collection methods to evaluate the project: document review and FGDs.

### DOCUMENT REVIEW

The evaluation team's assessment of ACCORD's overall strategy, goals, objectives, approach and results began with a thorough review of ACCORD's foundational documents. Key among these documents were quarterly project reports, annual report, the Performance Monitoring & Evaluation Plan, a Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) report and a series of internal evaluation briefs conducted by ACCORD.

### FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

The appraisal team interviewed 161 respondents through 12 FGDs in 6 communities across two districts in the Gao Region. Since women are the primary beneficiaries, the appraisal consciously interviewed more females than males. As shown on figure 2, 61% of the respondents were women with men making up the remaining 39%.



**Percentage of Respondents by Sex**

Men 39%

Women 61%

■ Men  ■ Women
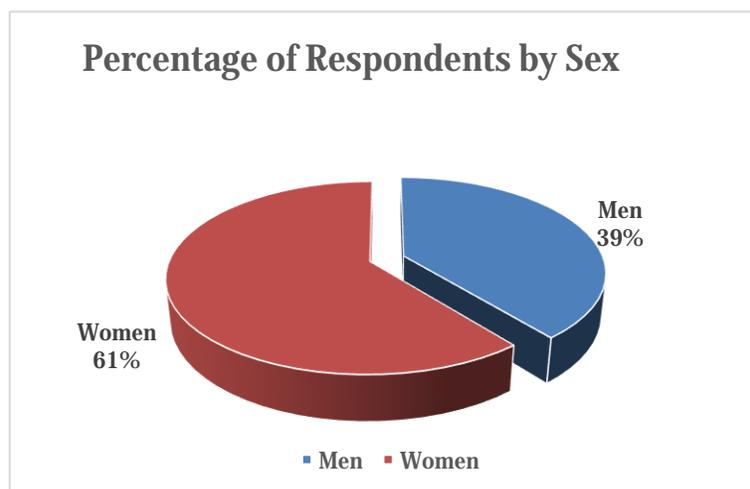
| Community | Number of Participants | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Percentage |
| Gao | 0 | 25 | 25 | 15 |
| Berrah | 12 | 18 | 30 | 19 |
| Kounsoum | 15 | 12 | 27 | 17 |
| Lellehoye | 10 | 18 | 28 | 17 |
| Tessit | 17 | 15 | 32 | 20 |
| Ansongo | 9 | 10 | 19 | 12 |
| TOTAL | 63 | 98 | 161 | 100 |

More respondents were interviewed in Tessit than any other community. Some 32 beneficiaries were interviewed in Tessit, representing 20% of the total interview sample. This was closely followed by Berrah which had 30 beneficiaries as respondents, representation 19%. Both Lellohoye and Kounsoum had 28 and 27 beneficiaries interviewed respectively, representing 17% of total respondents in each of these communities. Some 15% (25 respondents) were interviewed in Gao, with the least proportion of 12% (19 respondents) coming from Ansongo.

## RAPID APPRAISAL TEAM STRUCTURE

The appraisal was conducted by a six-member team involving the Platform's Senior Monitoring & Evaluation Advisor, the COR for the ACCORD Project, the Platform's Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist responsible for Peace, Democracy and Governance (PDG) and 3 Research Assistants[3]. This team developed the learning questions, appraisal design, and data collection methodology. The Platform Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor led the team and was responsible for analyzing the data and developing the report.

The Platform Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (PDG), lead the training of the research assistants, coordinated the flow of data, and conducted the translations of responses into English. He also conducted the data synthesis and led in the presentation of the appraisal findings to stakeholders.

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[3] The Research Assistants comprised of 1 female and 2 male interviewers.

Finally, the 3 Research Assistants visited the communities, organized the groups for the FGDs, and conducted the FGDs. They also conducted the transcription of the responses into French and made this available to the Platform for processing.

## APPRAISAL LIMITATIONS

**Non- Probabilistic Sample**: The appraisal used a purposive sampling method in selecting communities for interviewing. The sample is therefore non-probabilistic and may not be a true representation of the total beneficiary or project coverage.

**Qualitative Interviews:** The interviews conducted were all qualitative. While the results present some quantitative information, these are quantification of the qualitative information. With solely qualitative data, there is a high tendency of responses reflecting the perception of the extroverts rather than the sample.

**Sample Size:** The assessment interviewed some 161 beneficiaries. This sample is not large enough to be representative of all beneficiaries. The results can therefore not be generalized as representations of the project's performance, but can be used to represent the perception of some knowledgeable beneficiaries within the communities that were involved in this study.

**Assessment Period:** This appraisal sought to test the effectiveness of the hypotheses underpinning the design of the ACCORD project. To be able to test for the effectiveness of the Theory of Change (TOC) however, there is the need to conduct this assessment at least 6 months after implementation. This would ensure the medium to long term effects are realized and aid in accurately testing the results. However, this assessment took place before the end of the project. There is therefore the possibility that some changes attributable to the project activities may occur after the appraisal period.

# APPRAISAL FINDINGS

**HYPOTHESIS 1: WHEN SERVICE DELIVERY IS IMPROVED AND CONSENSUS-BASED PROCESSES STRENGTHENED, THEN CITIZEN PERCEPTION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS SHALL IMPROVE**

## HOW CAN REHABILITATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGE THE PERCEPTION OF THE CITIZENS REGARDING THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT?

The appraisal team found that infrastructure has been constructed or rehabilitated for 4 out of the 6 communities that were visited. The communities that benefited are Berrah, Kounsoum, Lellehoye, and Tessit. However, Ansongo and Gao did not receive infrastructure support and therefore did not respond to these questions. Details of infrastructure support provided to the selected communities are:

Berrah: The project constructed a building that is being used as two multipurpose platforms at the time of the appraisal. The Project further provided grinding mills, and trained millers to operate the mills for each of the platforms.

Koumsoum: A building was constructed by the Project for a multipurpose platform for beneficiaries. The project further provided the beneficiaries with grinding mills and diesel and oil to operate the grinding mills. The project further constructed a well for the community, however, at the time of the appraisal, this well was not functioning.

Lellehoye: Similar to Koumsoum, the project constructed a building for a multipurpose platform for the beneficiaries and further provided them with grinding mills, diesel and oil to operate the grinding mills. The project also constructed a well for the community, which was functional at the time of the appraisal.

Tessit: Three (3) major constructions were carried out by the Project in this community: the construction and rehabilitation of town hall, construction of radio station, and construction of two multipurpose platforms. For the Tessit town hall, the project constructed a Conference Hall, residence of the guard of the town hall, shed for the parking of vehicles, and two slab latrines. The project further rehabilitated two slab latrines and the offices of the town hall. Also, the project provided furniture for the conference hall and offices, 15 solar panels of 250 Watt, 12 Batteries of 200 amps, a computer and a printer for the office of the mayor, a computer for the office of the secretary general and a third computer for the office of the recipe manager.

For the radio station, the project constructed the building, the fence, 2 toilets, the care taker's house, a sign board, a production room, a studio, transmission room, and a shed. The project further provided equipment including 30 solar panels, 24 batteries, a transmitter, an amplifier, a console of 16 tracks, 2 computers, a converter, 2 CD player, 1 dictaphone, 4 microphones, 4 earphones, a tool case, telephone, 4 cabinets, tables,10 office chairs, 3 swivel chairs.

The project further constructed two platform buildings for beneficiaries in Tessit and provided 2 grinding mills, 12 barrels including of diesel (6 barrels per platform) and 20 liters of oil for each of the two platforms. Further, spare parts were provided by the project ensure effective maintenance and operation when there is a breakdown.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The project fully involved the communities in their activities, before, during and after the construction as reported by all the groups interviewed. All the groups interviewed were also of the opinion that the project was constructed by ACCORD.

The same approach was used in engaging communities. First, the ACCORD project organizes a community durbar to discuss the purpose of their presence and decide on the community project with the community. Second, the ACCORD project requests the community to form a monitoring committee to monitor and report on the progress to the community leaders. Third, the project supplies the construction materials and contractor to carry out the construction. This construction is done with the community monitoring committee closely involved and providing feedback to the community leaders. Finally, the project is completed and handed over to the community.

The level of community contribution also seems to have been standardized. For each construction, the community contributed to provide accommodation, meals and water for the construction workers. The communities also contributed the land for construction and provided store houses to store the construction materials. In special cases, however, some communities went the extra mile to provide further support to the team. For instance, in Berrah, because the construction was taking place on an island, the community transported the building materials and workers across the river to the island at no cost to the project.

**CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS**

Beneficiaries were divided in line with sex on their opinion as to whether they can give credit to the government for the various infrastructure development activities implemented in their communities by the ACCORD project. All 3 women's groups believe the government deserves no credit for the infrastructural developments by ACCORD.  The main reason given by the women for not giving credit to the government is that they did not observe the presence of governmental actors in the community during the implementation of activities. Backing her decision not to attribute any credit to the government, one woman in Kounsoum said the government does not deserve any credit because the government, "never passed through our community," during the construction. Another woman in Tessit insisted on not giving credit to the government saying, "Even though (I believe) it is through the government that the project came, ACCORD came to us. The government was there long before ACCORD came to give us this donation. The government is not serious we know that ACCORD must go through the government to ease their job." Apart from not giving credit to the government for the developmental projects implemented by the ACCORD project, all 3 women's groups did not have much confidence in governmental actors as their perception remained unchanged from their initial perception before the project. Expressing her frustration with the government, a woman from Tessit said "Left unto the government we wouldn't have benefited from the platform. They would have embezzled support."

The community elders' groups[4] interviewed, however, viewed the situation differently from the women's groups. Of the 4 community elders' groups, 3 gave credit to the government for the projects implemented by ACCORD and the fourth group remained undecided. The groups that gave credit to the government did so because they believed ACCORD project was brought to their community through governmental policies and negotiation with other development partners. In Berrah for instance, one community leader said he believed the government deserves the credit because, "the construction of these platforms shows that the government is calling on partners to help it deal with development and reconciliation in our community." Another community leader said the government deserves the credit because ACCORD is working in

*Beneficiaries are divided by sex on whether government deserve some credit for the project. All predominantly female groups believe government deserves no credit because they did not observe the presence of governmental actors during the implementation. All predominantly male groups believe government deserve the credit because ACCORD is a project born out of Malian government's negotiations with foreign governments for support*

collaboration with the government. This has bolstered their confidence in the governmental actors. In Lollohoye for instance, one community elder said, "the construction has strengthened our confidence in government actors. We now know that the government is concerned about the development of our community."

Community leaders in Kounsoum were, however, not sure if they should give the credit to the government or not. They believe the government does not deserve the credit because they never saw any governmental actor in the community during the implementation. However, they also believe ACCORD cannot be implementing the project independent of the government. One community leader in the group captured the group's view saying, "It's ACCORD that came here even though they believe it is through governmental policies that we benefited from this project." The elders of this community were however unanimous in saying the project has strengthened their confidence in governmental actors. One community leader said, "This project has given us hope and we think that in future there will be more (governmental) projects here." Another elder in the same community was more elaborate when explaining why the elders' confidence in the government has been strengthened by the provision of this support to the community. He said, "during the crisis, the government was absent (from our community), but the realization of this project through a partner of the government testifies to us that the government thinks." Emphasizing the importance of the governmental contribution over the contribution of the ACCORD project he said, "in our culture the one who thinks of you is better than the one who gives you. When partners of the government are in our community supporting us, it is as if

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[4] The group composition of the community elders groups included 79% men and 21% women.

the government is present with us and it creates a feeling of esteem and respect for the actors of the government."

The provision of infrastructure did not change the perceptions of the radio group[5] in relation to the governmental actors. The only radio group interviewed was from Tessit. The group held very strong opinions, rejecting any attempt to give credit to the government for the developmental projects implemented by ACCORD. Describing the government as a government in "moribund" one group member said, "the government is inefficient. It is USAID who built this building and who cares about us." Another group member who thinks the government can best be seen as being on "perfusion" said the government does not deserve any credit because, "It's USAID funding that is being implemented by AECOM. The government has no hand in it."

## WHAT EFFECT DOES COMMUNITY DIALOGUE HAVE ON CITIZENS' ACCEPTANCE AND OWNERSHIP OF COMMUNITY LEVEL INTERVENTIONS?

Even though the ACCORD project actively dialogued with the communities before, during and after the interventions, communities interviewed did not view the project as their own. The community leaders in Berrah believe that the project constructed by ACCORD belongs to the government rather than the community. Explaining their point of view, one community leader said the project is owned by, "the government because it is through the government that ACCORD implemented this project in Berrah." The Radio group also believes the project belongs to the ACCORD project until August 2018 when the community would become owners of the project. Their perception is based on an agreement with the project, that ACCORD shall be responsible for repairs and maintenance until August 2018. A member of the group explained that the project is owned by the ACCORD project, which is responsible for everything "until August 2018." All other groups interviewed simply answered that the ACCORD project owns the infrastructure developments provided to the community. No group or community believed they were the owners of the project at the time of the appraisal.

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[5] The radio group has a female majority (60%) and a male minority (40%)

The appraisal also found that the Radio group and women's group in Tessit believe ACCORD is responsible for the repairs and maintenance of the project for the community for an agreed time. While the Radio group believes their agreement with ACCORD is for the project to continue repairing and maintaining the station for the community until August 2018, the women's group said their agreement with ACCORD is for the project to continuing with major repairs whilst the community carries out minor repairs for the first 6 months after construction. When asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the facility, one women in Tessit said. "ACCORD is responsible for (maintenance of the facility) up to 6 months after construction, but if there is a small repair, we do not wait on ACCORD. Because of the delays in getting ACCORD to repair, we carry out the minor repairs with money from our fund." All the other remaining groups believe it is the responsibility of the community to carry out the maintenance and repairs of their facility. For instance, the community elders in Kounsoum explained that after constructing the building, ACCORD told the community that the building belongs to the community and that if the building collapses or gets damaged it is the responsibility of the community to build or rehabilitated it.

Each community has a strategy in place for generating funds to sustain the project. These strategies vary from one community to the other, an indication that the decisions were taken by the communities themselves and not from a centralized source. In Berrah for instance, the women who belong to the beneficiary group contribute 150.00 XOF each per week to sustain the platform. These beneficiary women will be support by the community leaders. The leaders plan to use advocacy to raise funds from other sources to support the sustainability of the project. In Kounsoum, however, each beneficiary woman contributes 50.00XOF per week to sustain their project.

Generally, strategies kept in place to sustain the various developmental projects include weekly contribution by beneficiaries, income generation from the projects, donations from local philanthropists, and advocacy to raise funds.

In Tessit, however, the community elders shared plans to get the local governmental authorities to support sustaining the project, especially in cases of major damages that the contributions from their various income generation activities can not cover. Elaborating on this, one community elder said, "We have established a committee responsible for the management of the project. In case of major damage, this would convene an extraordinary session to discuss and assess the damage. If the committee finds the damage beyond the ability of the community to repair, it would solicit support from the governmental authorities (Mayor). The Mayor, in turn, will convene an extraordinary session and put the situation on the agenda so that support can be given from the "green fund" – Agence Nationale, d'Investissement des Collectivités Teritoriales (ANICIT) or seek for support from other partners or philanthropist."

**HYPOTHESIS 2: WHEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ENGAGED IN PEACE BUILDING PROCESSES AND VIOLENT EXTREMIST PROPAGANDA IS COUNTERED THROUGH THE DISSEMINATION OF COUNTER-NARRATIVES, THEN COMMUNITIES WOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY RESIST NEGATIVE EXTERNAL INFLUENCES**

## WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES AGAINST VIOLENCE EXTREMISM?

The appraisal team found that ACCORD organized 5 main types of to strengthen communities against violence extremism. These are caravan of peace, community exchange visits, inter-community meetings, round table meetings, and inauguration of projects. The project also organized intercommunity sporting competitions to promote peace. During these social events, ACCORD promoted peace using religious sermons by religious leaders, peace talks by Malian military personnel and their United Nation counterparts, and opinion leaders. Through these social events the project promoted social cohesion, sharing, living together, and forgiveness.

Commenting on the benefits of promoting peace through participating in the inauguration of two platforms in Kounsoum and Tessit, a woman from Asongo who attended the inauguration observed that "all the Tamasheq and Fulani communities met for a day to talk about platform management, social cohesion and religious leaders were used to preach to all groups." Fulanis and Tamasheqs have experienced some violent clashes in surrounding communities and using the platform to bring them together was a great opportunity to promote peace. This inauguration of the platform was also scheduled to coincide with International Women's Day6 to encourage by-in from all community members.

*ACCORD used caravan of peace, community exchange visits, inter-community meetings, round table meetings and project inaugurations to educate and strengthen communities against violence extremism.*

Participants of various FGDs explained how effective the exchange visits have been. One woman from the Multifunctional platform in Tessit explained that in one such exchange visit, ACCORD brought together "mayors of 7 communes, leaders of women groups, young people, religious leaders and there were sensitizations and sermons to promote peace." The inter-community meetings were also used to facilitate peace and promote reconciliation between "orthodox Muslims and simple Muslims" according to an opinion leader from the Berrah community. These five approaches used by ACCORD were

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6 International Women's Day held on March 8, is heavily recognized and patronized all across Mali. Most organizations allow women to stay off work. Generally, there is often a cloth design promoted for the day that most women dress in that day. It is also accompanied with conferences and merry making country-wide.

therefore found by community members to be very effective in uniting the people against violence extremism.

## HOW DID SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND SPORTING EVENTS CONTRIBUTE TO BUILD COMMUNITIES' RESILIENCE AGAINST VIOLENCE EXTREMISM?

The appraisal team further found that all the groups interviewed have been involved in some social events organized by the ACCORD project to promote peace except, the Asongo Youth Football Club. The appraisal further found that none of the groups interviewed had been involved in any cultural event organized by ACCORD. With sporting events, only the Asongo Youth Football Club, Tessit community elders, Tessit women and Tessit Radio groups had benefited from sporting activities organized by ACCORD Project.

*All groups interviewed believe engaging communities and countering extremist propaganda is an effective means of strengthening communities to resist negative external influence.*

Participants of the FGDs believed these initiatives have already started to yield results. A community leader from Berrah said, "These activities have already given a positive result because since they were conducted the 'hatchet is buried' and no inhabitant of our community will still accept integration with the enemies of peace[7]." In Tessit, a community leader observed how the timely intervention of the peace promotion activities of ACCORD prevented the escalation of violent conflict when he said, "the first forum was organized at a time when there was tension (between the communities), but the forum made the community leaders sit down and dialogue, thereby lowering the tensions and all the officials exchanged pleasantries. This lowered the tension and launched the foundation of an opportunity for reconciliation."

Accord also organized soccer training sessions and tournaments for various communities. For instance, the Ansongo youth benefited from a 5-day soccer training session, provided the youth group with soccer kits and organized a tournament between the youth of Asongo and Tessit. During these sessions talks were given to promote peace among the youth. A beneficiary of this sporting opportunity from Ansongo explained the benefits derived from the sporting activities in the area of peace promotion, saying "these activities contributed to the fact that they allowed all the communes to see each other, to talk to each other and to know each other. The matches brought joy and created relationships that allowed us to 'break the ice' between young people."

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[7] Those who kill in the name of the Muslim religion

## HOW DID ACCORD'S ACTIVITIES DIRECTED TOWARDS WOMEN AND YOUTH INCREASE THEIR RESILIENCE AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM?

ACCORD used a two-pronged approach to target women and increase their resilience against violent extremism. First, they built the capacity of the women through exchange visits and trainings focusing on conflict resolution, good governance and creating women leadership for the promotion of peace. The second approach was by generating employment opportunities for the women through the creation of the platforms. According to respondents from the FGD, these two approaches have strengthened both the beneficiary women and their communities to enable them resist violent extremism. A male community leader in Kounsoum noted that "these activities (the platform and trainings provided to women) have made them more financially independent and turned them into leaders who are committed and concerned about their development". Another male community leader from Berrah noted that the platform and trainings provided to the women "have empowered them to resist violent extremism because they are now preoccupied with the management of the platform". During a FGD with management of the Tessit Community Radio, a female participants observed that the community women have not only been strengthened by these activities to resist violent extremism but they have also become the "leaders of peace" in their communities.

*ACCORDS's activities capacity building and income generation activities directed toward women made them autonomous and pioneers of peace. Social and sporting activities targeting the youth has reconcile and strengthened them against violent extremism.*

The FGDs further established that the approaches being used currently to target the youth such as organizing social and sporting events, caravan of peace, peace talks through community durbars and radio programs, intercommunity dialogues, and exchange visits interwoven with peace talks by the military, religious leaders, community leaders and various group leaders such as women and youth groups are effective. Respondents from each of the 6 communities were of the opinion that these activities have already started yielding visible results in their communities. When asked how these approaches have contributed to strengthen the Tessit community against negative external influences[8], respondents were of the view that that these activities have fortified the relationship among the youth and they are therefore not willing to fight each other. Explaining a youth in the FGD said the activities "have reinforced the social cohesion among the young people. At a time when the young people were suspicious of each other, it allowed them to get closer together and know themselves."

The appraisal found that there are no activities aimed at generating employment for the youth such as being done for the women. A youth from Asongo observed that supporting the youth with employable

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[8] The expression "negative external influence" was used as an euphemism to violence extremism to avoid potential attacks in case some FGD participants are members of some extremist organizations

skills and resources will prevent them from becoming "road cutters." Some opportunities that are considered worthy of promoting among the youth includes provision of fertilizer and chemicals for food and cash crop production as well as irrigated Perimeters carpentry, masonry, and sewing. One community elder in Tessit observed that the livestock herders were the most affected and would need "reconstitution." He explained that these livestock herders were severely affected by the conflict "because they were victim of flight during attacks as well as the bad rainfall."

HYPOTHESIS 3: WHEN CAPACITY OF WOMEN IS BUILT, THEN THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS?

The project conducted a 3-month intensive training for representatives from each of the beneficiary women groups interviewed, using participatory rural appraisal techniques. The trainings were conducted in the local language, ensuring participants could understand the sessions and be effective participants. Modules covered during the training include leadership, advocacy, good governance, public communication and non-violent conflict resolution, gender-based violence, networking, and conflict management. Each of these modules was delivered in 10 days. The table below presents the number of beneficiary women getting involved in politics after receiving training.

*In 3 of the communities interviewed, some more women got involved in the political process after the training. In the other 3 communities, however, no women got involved in the political process after the training*

BENEFICIARY WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

| Community | # of Women in Politics before Capacity Building | # of Women joining Politics after Capacity Building | Total # of Women Currently in Politics | % Increase |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Berrah | 2 | 6 | 8 | 300% |
| Kounsoum | 8 | 14 | 22 | 175% |
| Lellehoye | 2 | 2 | 4 | 100% |
| Ansongo | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Tessit | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Gao | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

From the table above, there have been significant increases in the number of women from Berrah (300%), Kounsoum (175%) and Lellohoye (100%) entering politics after receiving training from the ACCORD project. However, the results also show that in Asongo, Tessit and Gao, there were no

increases in the number of women entering politics after receiving training. While the three communities in which the women trained became more involved in the political process, all are also communities that benefited from infrastructure. Tessit[9] also benefited from infrastructure but did not record any increase in the number of women getting involved in the political process after the training.

## APPRAISAL QUESTION 4: HOW CAN COMMUNITY RADIOS WITH THE GOAL OF PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES BE SUSTAINED?

The appraisal team interacted with three communities (Ansongo, Tessit and Gao) with social service-oriented community radio stations. In Ansongo, the appraisal team found that there are 4 community radio stations of which 3 were financed by the ACCORD project. The study also found a community radio station in Tessit financed by the ACCORD project and a private social service-oriented radio station in Gao also supported by ACCORD.

All 6 of the radio stations focused on providing information on social issues to the community. Some key focus areas of their broadcast are promotion of peace and social cohesion, gender based violence, governance, promotion of girls' education, and debates on social issues. Other issues often broadcasted are on reconciliation promotion, programs to counter extremism, good governance, conflict resolution, early marriages, obituary announcements and environmental issues.

*Suggestions on how to sustain community radios providing social services include community contribution, services charge, support from developmental partners, philanthropists donation and charging for funeral announcements.*

The appraisal team found that the main sources of financing the activities of the radio stations are through the ACCORD project[10], donations from philanthropists, funds generated internally by the radio stations, and contributions by members of the radio stations. Respondents believe these sources of funding are going to continue as far as the radio stations continue to function.

In addition to the methods already in use to generate funds to sustain the radio stations, respondents suggested contributions from community members to support the station, institutionalizing service charges for promotions, advocating for support from development partners and philanthropists, and promoting funeral announcements.

In Tessit, for instance, the members of the community association that owns the radio station have institutionalized not only income generation but also efficient management of the resources, as a means of ensuring sustainability. The association decided that each member pays monthly dues of 1,000.00XOF

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[9] **Tessit benefited from the largest amount of infrastructural support in addition to training. These are construction and rehabilitation of town hall, construction of radio station and construction of two multipurpose platforms. It therefore epitomizes the women beneficiaries receiving both infrastructural support and training and yet did not record any effect on women involvement in the political process**

[10] The ACCORD project ended in March 2018 and therefore the communities would not be receiving support from the project any longer.

to sustain the operations of the radio station. While they would continue seeking support from other sources, this would serve as a guaranteed and sustainable source of funding. To ensure efficient management, the association has set a monthly maximum limit of 50,000XOF as the amount that could be used by the management in managing the station. In situations where the management has a justifiable reason to spend more, they would need approval from a management committee kept in place by the association.

# CONCLUSION

### HYPOTHESIS 1: WHEN SERVICE DELIVERY IS IMPROVED AND CONSENSUS-BASED PROCESSES STRENGTHENED, THEN CITIZEN PERCEPTION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS SHALL IMPROVE

For rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure to change the perception of women toward the Malian government, they need to see the involvement of governmental actors from inceptions, through implementation to management. Like the women, some men would also like to see the complete involvement of the governmental actors to be convinced and for their perception of the government to be improved. However, with majority of the men, even when they do not see governmental involvement, they generally believed the government deserves some credit and are therefore willing to change their perception in relation to the government.

*For rehabilitation and construction of infrastructures to change the perception of the citizens regarding the Malian government, governmental actors must be seen as being part of the process from planning to completion*

Community dialogue by itself does not affect citizens acceptance and ownership of community level interventions. Communities that were engaged still believe they did not own the interventions. The quality of the dialogue is therefore very important to enable community members to accept and own the interventions.

### HYPOTHESIS 2: WHEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ENGAGED IN PEACE BUILDING PROCESSES AND VIOLENT EXTREMIST PROPAGANDA IS COUNTERED THROUGH THE DISSEMINATION OF COUNTER-NARRATIVES, THEN COMMUNITIES WOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY RESIST NEGATIVE EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

Community engagement and counter to extremist propaganda can strengthen communities to resist negative external influence. However, these must be complemented with income generation opportunities before it can ensure effectiveness and sustainability.

The best ways to strengthen communities against violence extremism are to combine a series of strategies including organizing social and sporting events, caravans of peace, peace talks through community durbars and radio programs, intercommunity dialogues, and exchange visits interwoven with peace talks by the military, religious leaders, community leaders and various group leaders such as women and youth groups.

*Community engagement and counter extremist propaganda are effective means of strengthening communities against negative external influences*

For these strategies to be more effective and sustainable however, they need to be complemented with the creation of employment for the citizens. The women who were trained and provided with revenue generation opportunities have become more formidable to resist enticement and propaganda from violent extremist organizations. Creating employment for the youth would therefore be a good complement to the community engagement in countering extremist propaganda.

### HYPOTHESIS 3: WHEN CAPACITY OF WOMEN IS BUILT, THEN THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Even though all the women groups in the 6 communities interviewed benefited from the 3-day trainings centered on Leadership, advocacy, good governance, public communication and non-violent conflict resolution, gender-based violence, networking, and conflict management, only 3 communities recorded increases in the number of women entering into the political process.

The appraisal therefore could not find enough evidence to support the theory that building the capacity of women would lead to their involvement in the political process. However, there was also no much evidence to suggest that capacity building for women would not lead to their involvement in the pollical process. The response to this hypothesis is therefore inclusive and would need a more detailed research.

*The appraisal did not find enough evidence to suggest that when the capacity of women is built, then they are more likely to engage in the political process*

## APPRAISAL QUESTION 4: HOW CAN COMMUNITY RADIOS WITH THE GOAL OF PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES BE SUSTAINED?

Community radios providing social services such as programs that are focused on the promotion of peace and social cohesion, gender based violence, governance, girl child education, reconciliation, counter extremism, good governance, conflict resolution, early marriages and environmental issues can be sustained by institutionalizing revenue generation for programs belonging to individuals and organizations that are not of direct social benefit to the communities. Such programs include burial and funeral announcements, wedding announcements, and advertisement. Revenue generated from these sources could be complemented with donations from project, individual philanthropist, and contribution by members of the radio stations.

*To sustain community radios providing social services, there is a need for (i) Institutionalization of revenue generation for social services such as funeral and marriage announcements and (ii) Efficient management of resources*

In addition to raising funds, there is the need to ensure efficient management of the funds raised. The radio station's resource management structure could limit the amount that management is allowed to use in managing the station in a month. They could place further conditions upon which such an amount could be increased for management should the monthly quota be exhausted.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

**USING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO CHANGE CITIZENS PERCEPTION ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT**

Subsequent projects should continue to fully involve beneficiaries in the planning, implementation, resource mobilization, monitoring and management of the infrastructural projects. In addition, governmental actors should be visibly involved. It is not enough for governmental actors to occasionally pay monitoring visits. There should be a structured plan of involvement and their presence should be made public through providing some words of assurance on the willingness of the government to continue supporting the community.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMIST PROPAGANDA**

Community engagement and publication of messages countering the extremist propaganda was found to be an effective means of strengthening communities to resist negative external influence. These should therefore be continued by future projects. The approaches used are effective and therefore future projects should consider continuing to use these approaches.

The provision of employment opportunities for women has also proven to be a very effective means of strengthening them against external extremist views. However, there is the need to complement that with income generation opportunities for the youth as well. Some key areas that should be considered when identifying employment opportunities for the youth should include providing fertilizer and chemicals for food and cash crop production as well as training the youth in irrigation perimeters, carpentry, masonry, and sewing.

**MORE EVIDENCE REGARDING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS**
Since the anecdotal evidence from the appraisal could not find any credence to conclusion for or against the hypothesis that "when capacity of women is built, then they are more likely to engage in the political process", there is the need for a mix method evaluation with a significant sample size and a representative sample in order to make any valid conclusions.

**SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES**

Community radio stations focusing on providing social services should be provided with technical support to institutionalize revenue generation and efficient resource management. Revenue generation should focus on raising funds from the activities of the stations internally such as instituting service charges for announcements and advertisements. Technical support should focus on efficient resource management and establishing simple internal systems that would guide the use of resources, such as fixing a limit on the amount that can be used by the management for the operations of the station each month.

# ANNEX A: RAPID APPRAISAL GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
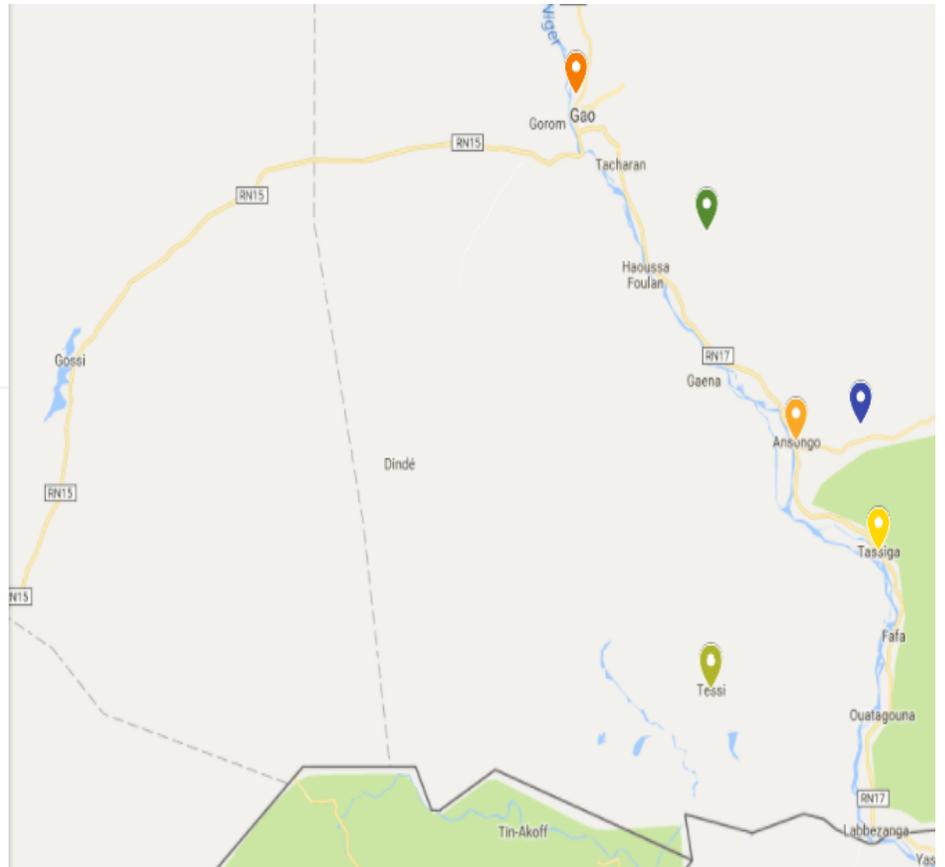
# ANNEX B: APPRAISAL QUESTION GUIDE

**EFFECT OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND CONSENSUS BUILDING ON CITIZEN PERCEPTION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS**

1. In your community, have you seen any infrastructure projects developed or rehabilitated in this community in the past 1.5 years?
   a. What are these infrastructural projects?
   b. Who do you think constructed or rehabilitated them?

2. Were you involved in rehabilitation/construction activities in this community?
   a. Were there dialogues with the community (i) before the inception of the project (ii) during the construction/rehabilitation? And (iii) after the construction?
   b. What was the community's contribution to the construction/rehabilitation?
   c. How was the community involved in the process?
   d. At what point of the process did the community get involved?
   e. How effective was the community's involvement?

3. Would you credit the government for this construction/rehabilitation? If yes why? If no why not?
   a. Does the construction/rehabilitation boost your confidence in the governmental actors?
   b. What positive impression does this rehabilitation/construction give you about the government?
   c. What negative impression does this rehabilitation/construction give you about the government actors?

4. Who would you say owns the project? Why do you say so?
   a. Who is responsible for repairing or rehabilitating the project when it breaks down?
   b. Does the community have any strategy in place to rehabilitate it when it breaks down?
   c. Can you share these strategies with us?
   d. Do you think this strategy will benefit the project in the long run?
   e. If not, what should the community do to sustain the project?

**EFFECT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COUNTERING EXTREMIST PROPAGANDA ON COMMUNITY'S ABILITY TO RESIST NEGATIVE EXTERNAL INFLUENCE**

5. Have you taken part in any **Social Events** aimed at countering violent extremism in the past 1.5 years?
   a. What were these events?
   b. Where did they take place, in your community or another community?
   c. Who organized these events?
   d. What specific activities took place as part of the event?
   e. What specific activities were carried out to build resistance against Violent Extremism?
   f. How were these activities carried out?
   g. In your opinion, can these activities significantly contribute to countering Violent Extremism? Why yes? Or why not?
   h. How can such activities be improved to more effectively counter Violent Extremism?

6. Have you taken part in any **Cultural Events** aimed at countering violent extremism in the past 1.5 years?
    a. What were these events?
    b. Where did they take place, in your community or another community?
    c. Who organized these events?
    d. What specific activities took place as part of the event?
    e. What specific activities were carried out to build resistance against Violent Extremism?
    f. How were these activities carried out?
    g. In your opinion, can these activities significantly contribute to countering Violent Extremism? Why yes? Or why not?
    h. How can such activities be improved to more effectively counter Violent Extremism?

7. Have you taken part in any **Sporting Events** aimed at countering violent extremism in the past 1.5 years?
    a. What were these events?
    b. Where did they take place, in your community or another community?
    c. Who organized these events?
    d. What specific activities took place as part of the event?
    e. What specific activities were carried out to build resistance against Violent Extremism?
    f. How were these activities carried out?
    g. In your opinion, can these activities significantly contribute to countering Violent Extremism? Why yes? Or why not?
    h. How can such activities be improved to more effectively counter Violent Extremism?

8. In your opinion, what is the best means by which communities can be strengthened to resist the infiltration of violent extremism?

9. What specific activities did the ACCORD project conduct in your community to strengthen women to resist violent extremism?
    a. How effective were these activities in your opinion?
    b. Do you think these activities have strengthened women to resist Violent Extremism?
    c. How can the effectiveness of these activities be improved?
    d. What more do you think could be done to strengthen women against Violent Extremism?

10. What specific activities did the ACCORD project conduct in your community to strengthen the youth to resist violent extremism?
    a. How effective were these activities in your opinion?
    b. Do you think these activities have strengthened the youth to resist Violent Extremism?
    c. How can the effectiveness of these activities be improved?
    d. What more do you think could be done to strengthen the youth against Violent Extremism?

11. Would you say you were engaged in peace building activities over the past 1.5 years by the ACCORD project?
    a. What peace building activities were you engaged in?

b. How active was your engagement?

c. What were the challenges in the engagement process?

d. What do you think could be done to improve the effectiveness of the peace building processes?

12. Do you believe your community has been strengthened to resist negative external influences with their involvement in the peace building processes?

    a. Would you say your community has been strengthened "Socially" to resist violent extremism? Why yes? Or Why not?

    b. Is your community stronger today to "socially" resist Violent Extremism than it was before the inception of the project 1.5 years ago?

    c. Would you say your community has been strengthened "Economically" to resist violent extremism? Why yes? Or Why not?

    Is your community stronger today to "Economically" resist Violent Extremism than it was before the inception of the project 1.5 years ago?

**WOMEN'S CAPACITY BUILDING AND INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL PROCESS**

13. Did the women in this community receive any capacity building assistance from the ACCORD project?

    a. In which thematic areas were their capacity built?

    b. How often were the capacity building activities conducted?

    c. What methods were used in building their capacity?

    d. Can you please name the women you know in this community who were actively engaged in the political process before the inception of this capacity building support 1.5 years ago?

    e. Do you know any woman in this community who have gotten involved in the political process after receiving capacity building from the project?

    f. Would you attribute their involvement in politics to the capacity building support they received? Why yes? Or why not?

**INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES AND WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN LEADERSHIP**

14. Has this community been affected by conflict in the past? If yes, would you say the situation has been reversed or is being reversed?

    a. Have some women in this community received support through income generation activities?

    b. What income generation activities are the women involved in through the support from the ACCORD project?

    c. Who are the women in this community who have benefited from these income generation activities that you know?

    d. How many of these women are involved in leadership roles in this community?

    e. When did they get involved in this leadership activity? Is it before the income generation support or after?

    f. Would you say any of these women were able to get into leadership position in this community because of their engagement in income generation activities?

**SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMUNITY RADIO STATION**

15. Do you have any Radio station(s) in this community? Who owns these stations?

     a.   Is there any Radio Station owned by the community?

     b.   What services does it provide? Would describe these service as social services?

     c.   If yes, how is it currently financed?

     d.   How long would these sources of finance continue?

     e.   What can the community do to guarantee financial support when the current sources of finance are no more?

# ANNEX C: ACTIVITY MAPPING

## 1. ANSONGO

**OBJECTIVE 1:**
MPI048-Ansongo Community Leaders Dialogue To Reconnect Talataye

**OBJECTIVE 2:**
MPI024-Youth Football Competition in Ansongo

**OBJECTIVE 3:**
MPI023-Gender Equity and Conflict Resolution Training for Youth in Ansongo

Promote Women Leadership in Marginalized Communities of Gao and Ansongo Cercle

## 2. TESSIT

**OBJECTIVE 1:**
MPI003-Tessit Intercommunity Meeting to Discuss PDSEC and Peace Process

MPI005-Rehabilitation and Improvement of Tessit Mayor's Office

MPI006-Improving the Functionality of Adouf Radio Station in Tessit

**OBJECTIVE 2: N/A**
**OBJECTIVE 3:**
MPI025-Promoting Social Cohesion in Tessit Village through Multifunctional Platforms

MPI061-Strengthening the capacity of Women's Multifunctional Platforms

## 3. LELLEHOYE

**OBJECTIVE 1:**
MPI039-Improving Access to Water in Kounsoum and Lellehoye

**OBJECTIVE 2:**
MPI004-Dialogue between community leaders in Lellehoye, Goleye and Kounsoum

MPI040-Promoting Social Cohesion in Lellehoye with Multifunctional Platforms

**OBJECTIVE 3: N/A**

## 4.   KOUNSOUM

**OBJECTIVE 1:**
MPI039-Improving Access to Water in Kounsoum and Lellehoye

**OBJECTIVE 2:**
MPI004-Dialogue between community leaders in Lellehoye, Goleye and Kounsoum

**OBJECTIVE 3:**
MPI017-Promoting Social Cohesion in Golea and Kounsoum with Multifunctional Platforms

## 5.   GAO-COMMUNE

**OBJECTIVE 1: N/A**
**OBJECTIVE 2: N/A**
**OBJECTIVE 3:**
MPI041-Promote Women Leadership in Marginalized Communities of Gao and Ansongo Cercle

## 6.   BERRAH

**OBJECTIVE 1: N/A**
**OBJECTIVE 2:**
MPI001-Dialogue between community leaders in Berrah Village

**OBJECTIVE 3:**
MPI010-Promoting Social Cohesion in Berrah Village through Multifunctional Platforms

# ANNEX D: TYPE OF FGD BY COMMUNITY

## Focus group by community

Berrah:
Focus group with:
Community leaders
Multifunctional Platforms Management team

Gao-commune:
Focus group with:
Women Leadership in Marginalized Communities

Gao-Ansongo
Objective 1:
Community Leaders
Youth Football Competition

Lellehoye
Focus group with:
Community leaders
Multifunctional Platforms

Kounsoum
Focus group with:
Community leaders
Multifunctional Platforms

Tessit
Focus group with:
Mayor's Office
Multifunctional Platforms
Women's Multifunctional Platforms

# ANNEX E: RAPID APPRAISAL TIMEFRAME

| Data Monitors training | | Field data collection | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thursday Jan4 | Friday Jan5 | Saturday Jan6 | Monday Jan8 |
| Data Monitor training | (Berrah<br>Objective 1: N/A<br>Objective 2:<br>*MPI001-Dialogue between community leaders in Berrah Village*<br>Objective 3:<br>*MPI010-Promoting Social Cohesion in Berrah Village through Multifunctional Platforms*<br><br>Gao-commune<br>Objective 1: N/A<br>Objective 2: N/A<br>Objective 3:<br>*MPI041-Promote Women Leadership in Marginalized Communities of Gao and Ansongo Cercle* | <u>Ansongo</u><br>Objective 1:<br>*MPI048-Ansongo Community Leaders Dialogue To Reconnect Ansongo*<br>Objective 2:<br>*MPI024-Youth Football Competition in Ansongo*<br>Objective 3:<br>MPI023-Gender Equity and Conflict Resolution Training for Youth in Ansongo<br>Promote Women Leadership in Marginalized Communities of Gao and Ansongo Cercle | Lellehoye<br>Objective 1:<br>*MPI039-Improving Access to Water in Kounsoum and Lellehoye*<br>Objective 2:<br>*MPI004-Dialogue between community leaders in Lellehoye, Goleye and Kounsoum*<br>*MPI040-Promoting Social Cohesion in Lellehoye with Multifunctional Platforms*<br>Objective 3: N/A<br>Kounsoum<br>Objective 1:<br>MPI039-Improving Access to Water in Kounsoum and Lellehoye<br>Objective 2:<br>MPI004-Dialogue between community leaders in Lellehoye, Goleye and Kounsoum<br>Objective 3:<br>MPI017-Promoting Social Cohesion in Golea and Kounsoum with Multifunctional Platforms |
| Wednesday Jan10 | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Tessit<br>Objective 1:<br>MPI003-Tessit Intercommunity Meeting to Discuss PDSEC and Peace Process<br>MPI005-Rehabilitation and Improvement of Tessit Mayor's Office<br>MPI006-Improving the Functionality of Adouf Radio Station in Tessit<br>Objective 2: N/A<br>Objective 3:<br>MPI025-Promoting Social Cohesion in Tessit Village through Multifunctional Platforms<br>MPI061-Strengthening the capacity of Women's Multifunctional Platforms | |