



**MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND FOR
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT COVER PAGE

Participating UN Organization(s):	Project¹ Title: Support the development of a comprehensive national strategy against sexual and gender based violence including sexual violence in conflict.
Focal Point of Participating UN Organization(s): Name: Lucia Elmi Address: Le fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance Mali, Niamakoro, Route de l'Aéroport BP 96 Bamako, République du Mali Telephone: +223 20 22 21 24 Email:lelmi@unicef.org	Report Number: 2 Project Location(s): Mali
UN Action pillar of activity: <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support to UN system at country level	Reporting Period: September 2017 to July 2018.
Project Budget: 92,769 USD	

List Implementing Partners: Participating UN Organization(s): UN Action Secretariat; UNICEF, UNWOMEN;	Project Coverage/Scope: National coverage with participation of all regions (Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou, Mopti,
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¹ The term “project” is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes

<p>UNFPA, UNDP.</p> <p>Other International Organization(s) JUPREC, Care international Mali, Plan international Mali, Save the Children, HP+.</p> <p>National (government, private, NGOs & others) : Ministries of Promotion of Women, Children and Family, Health, Justice, Education, Finance, Youth, Culture, Communication, affaires religieuses et cultes, Army, Social Development, Civil Protection, National Assembly, and National NGOs.</p> <p>Regional level: Decentralized Government services related to the ministries listed above.</p>	<p>Gao, Tombouctou, Kidal, Menaka, Taoudeni) and Bamako District</p>
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<p>Project Duration/Closed Project: September 2017-January 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the project duration: 20 months • Report on budget revisions and extensions and provide the new dates: 1 no-cost extensions of the project until 31st July 2018 • Indicate if the project has been operationally closed during the reporting period. Yes

<p style="text-align: center;">Report Formatting Instructions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not put the narrative text into boxes and do not incorporate boxes into the narrative report. • Attach charts, graphs, etc. as annexes to the report and clearly reference using footnotes • Number all sections and paragraphs as indicated below • Format the entire document using 12-point Times New Roman & do not use colours
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FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

1. Purpose

1.1 Explain how the project relates to the Strategic Framework of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict and to its Terms of Reference

In Mali, gender-based violence (GBV) including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) remains a national problem which has serious consequences on the health, well-being and rights of the population, particularly children and women. Such violence perpetrated in peacetime was exacerbated in times of crisis, particularly armed conflicts, that has been known in Mali since the politico-security crisis in 2012, and the persistence of insecurity in particular in the North and Central regions.

Given this situation, coordinated multisectoral action is required for the prevention and response to SGBV in a comprehensive manner, for example through adequate national policy frameworks. While the UN system in Mali has previously supported the development of a National Program on Violence Against Women and Girls (2011-2013), which is yet to be implemented, as well as an Action Plan for the National Gender Policy (2011-2013), these strategies do not account for critical dimensions of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) which need specific attention given Mali's recent armed conflict and the continuation of hostilities.

The Ministry of the Promotion of Women, Children and Family has the leading role on the issue of SGBV. The Ministry, with the technical support of the UN System in Mali, has started the process of an internal reorganization in 2016, including with regards to its structures responsible for SGBV programming. However, in order to fully play its leadership role in SGBV matters at the ministerial and national level and to be able to actively participate in the ongoing reform processes, the Ministry needs further support at the strategic and technical level. At the same time, given some of the lessons learned from other policy development processes in Mali (lack of local ownership, lack of functional implementation mechanisms, lack of funding), it is also necessary to support the integration of SGBV/CRSV concerns in relevant reform processes and build up ownership for the national strategy with a wide range of actors.

Against this background, in 2016, UN Action deployed an international inter-agency SGBV expert seconded by the Government of Switzerland and hosted by UNICEF on behalf of the UN Country Team in Mali, and a national expert funded by UN Action to the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Family in 2017. Through the two deployments, UN Action was pursuing the objectives of its support in Mali which were to enhance UN system's and the national capacities

to address SGBV including CRSV through a structured coordination with key ministries, elected institutions and the civil society in order to address issues of gender-based violence, in the context of conflict.

This project sought to support in particular the development of a comprehensive national strategy on SGBV that takes into account the specific issues of CRSV, thereby directly contributing to the Outcome 3 “Comprehensive National Strategies and/or Action Plans that address CRSV are developed and implemented” of UN Action’s result framework.

1.2 Indicate the main implementing partners, their roles and responsibilities, and their interaction with the Participating UN Organizations.

The process of developing this strategy has been inclusive and participatory in the sense that it has been inspired by the realities of the situation of GBV through the collection of qualitative and quantitative information from the maximum number of actors involved.

The following partners were at the centre of the strategy development at the national and regional level:

- i) The Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Family (MPFEF), through its Programme national de lutte contre l’Excision (PNLE), took the leadership for the development of the national strategy to end GBV including CRSV.
- ii) The MPFEF’s capacity to lead this process was strengthened through the secondment of a national expert by UN Action to the PNLE as well as an international interagency expert seconded by Switzerland who was deployed through UN Action and hosted by UNICEF. The experts has provided substantive contribution to PNLE in developing the methodology for the strategy development process, raise funds and carry out some of the activities planned (e.g. setting up of the mechanism for developing the strategy, carry out a situation analysis on SGBV through desk review, working sessions with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and workshops; information event on the process, capacity-building workshops for all stakeholders).
- iii) The sectoral departments, the government actors, the institutions of the Republic, civil society organizations, technical and financial partners at national and regional levels were actively involved at all stages of the development of the national strategy document and its budgeted action plan for a better ownership of the content of the national strategies to end GBV by these actors, but also to take into account regional priorities and specificities.
- iv) The United Nations Agencies, particularly UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, were associated with the whole process and contributed by their expertise to the development of the strategy. In 2017, on the initiative of the international inter-agency expert, a “Groupe de réflexion stratégique sur l’appui du système des Nations Unies en matière de violences basées sur le genre” was created to ensure the coordination around the elaboration of the national strategy to end GBV. Beyond UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, which are the core agencies of this group, other agencies such as different sections from MINUSMA, OCHA, UNHCR and UNDP have actively participated in the various meetings of this group. The agencies and MINUSMA were also represented in the steering and thematic working groups through which the strategy was developed.

2. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

2.1 Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they were adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.

The methodology for the development of the national strategy to end GBV was agreed to have an inclusive and participatory process to foster national ownership and take into account the different contexts in Mali. To achieve maximum impact given the operating context, the implementation mechanisms developed below were adopted:

- i) The National Monitoring Committee for the adoption of the Gender Based Violence law established by decision No. 2017-002/MPFEF-SG of 24 January 2017 and composed by governmental, civil society, UN and donor representatives was recognized to have the mandate to oversee the process of developing the national strategy to end the GBV in Mali. The results of the work done by the thematic groups were validated by the members of this committee through a meeting at the Ministry of Promotion of Women, Children and Family's office. The members of this Committee have contributed to the process in all its phases: initial analysis, documents developed by the thematic groups, validation of the strategy document.
- ii) Four thematic working groups composed of governmental and non-governmental representatives were set up by decision 2017/034 of 11 September 2017 by the Minister of Promotion of Women, Children and Family to facilitate the elaboration of a draft strategy document. The members of these working groups developed the theory of change, the vision and the strategic axes of the Strategy's document. The members of the National Monitoring Committee were divided into four thematic working groups according to the themes of GBV management. Composed of sectoral Department officers, members of civil society organizations and representatives of technical and financial partners, they were distributed as follows:

- The Working Group on prevention;
- The Working group on Justice, security, defence
- The Working Group on multisectoral care;
- The Working Group on the Mechanism for coordination/implementation and monitoring-evaluation/funding mechanism.

These thematic groups have, through four working sessions, identified the strengths and weaknesses of the current interventions to prevent and respond to SGBV, developed a problem tree and the corresponding solution tree. They also formulated a common strategic vision and strategic action plan.

- iii) Regional consultation workshops were used to collect specific data by region and to improve the draft strategy document shared with the regional actors. This allowed to involve government actors, the members of civil society organizations and technical and financial partners at national and regional levels to foster ownership and take into account regional contexts and priorities.

To facilitate the implementation of regional consultations, the regions were divided up into the following hubs ("pôles"):

- Pôle Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro;
- Pôle Sikasso, Ségou;
- Pôle Mopti, Timbuktu, Taoudéni;
- Pôle Gao, Kidal and Ménaka.

This regional approach was also adopted to take into account the volatile security situation

in the North and the Centre. Nevertheless, access to the northern regions being only possible by air, the regional consultations at the level of the Gao hub (for Gao, Kidal and Ménaka) experienced more than two months of delay due to the difficulties in accessing Gao by plane.

2.2 Provide details on the monitoring system(s) used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the project.

The contracts of the international and national experts finished before the end of the national strategy development process. To avoid delay in the implementation of the present project to assist the process of developing a national strategy, an external consultant was contracted to support the Ministry of Women, Children and Family to finalize all the process of developing the national strategy document, its actions plans and logical framework.

In terms of lessons learned, a regional approach was used to ensure that each region is involved in the process and develops its own action plan to end GBV by 2030. Furthermore, multi-stakeholder working groups were used for the development of the strategy to ensure a multi-sectoral approach and promote ownership of all stakeholders of the content of the document. Existing national policies, strategies and action plans faced challenges during the implementation phase related to their coordination, monitoring and evaluation and funding mechanisms. In order to address this problem, a specific thematic working group composed of representatives of governmental M&E and funding units was established to advise and contribute to design and selection of an appropriate mechanism for the strategy. UN's technical support through the deployment of experts to enhance institutional capacities allowed Ministry to fully play its leadership and coordination role in ending GBV.

2.3 Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

At the beginning of the process of developing a national strategy to end GBV, a contextual analysis of the situation of GBV in Mali was conducted by the PNLE with the support of the international and national expert team. Through desk review and interviews and working sessions of key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and a multi-stakeholder workshop, data on the prevalence of GBV, availability of services and coordination mechanisms was collected. The result of this situation analysis was validated in a large workshop with the National Monitoring Committee/Working groups funded UNICEF in February 2018 and used for the development of the document of the national strategy to end GBV.

3. Results

3.1 Referring to the project logframe, describe the main activities undertaken and their achievements and provide the main outcomes and outputs of the project. Please indicate achievements of indicators against targets.

3.1.1 Main activities undertaken and their achievements

I. Organize capacity building workshops for government and NGO actors

Capacity-building workshops on SGBV/CRSV for national actors in coordination with UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA and MINUSMA were organized to help the Ministry of the Promotion of

Women, Children and Family, to enhance their capacity in playing a leadership role in the development of the national strategy and in integrating SGBV/CRSV in the ongoing implementation of the peace treaty, specifically in the reform processes such as SSR, DDR, transitional justice, national reconciliation for a coherent multi-sectoral response to SGBV, including in the regions affected by the conflict. This workshop was including other ministries, national institutions and civil society involved in preparation of the development of the national strategy. This workshop reinforced stakeholders' capacities and sensitized them for their institution to be actively involved in the process of developing a national strategy to end GBV. The workshops enregistered the participations of more than 50 participants (women and men) including regional actors.

II. Hold consultations with actors at the decentralized level for input on the national strategy on SGBV

Four regional consultations with governmental and non-governmental actors were organized in 4 hubs composed of the 10 regions (Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou, Mopti, Gao, Tombouctou, Kidal, Menaka, Taoudeni) and the Bamako District. These regional consultations were organized in order to support a participatory and inclusive strategy development process that includes all relevant governmental and non-governmental actors including from the regions, and creates multi-stakeholder ownership of the process.

The four 3-day consultation events took place in Bamako (for Kayes, Koulikoro regions and Bamako Districts actors), in Sikasso (Segou and Sikasso regions), in Mopti (Tombouctou, Taoudeni and Mopti regions), and in Gao (Kidal, Menaka and Gao regions).

The regional consultations allowed actors from both northern regions and central regions affected by armed conflict and insecurity and the other regions to contribute to their specific priorities, concerns and knowledge on the situation of their locations to the development of the national strategy to end SGBV/CRSV.

III. 1.3 Organize a study/exchange visit between Mali and another country in the region

Before starting the national strategy development process in Mali, UN Action supported the participation of a representative of the Malian Ministry of the Promotion of Women, Children and Family and the International Expert on SGBV in a workshop on the National Strategy against SGBV in Côte d'Ivoire in September 2016. This, regional exchange on good practices and lessons learned has given useful initial inputs for the process in Mali. Sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned on similar processes in other countries in the region is of particular value to the actors involved.

During the implementation period, further regional exchange activities on good practices and lessons learned were planned to exchange best practices and experiences on implementation mechanisms with another country in the sub-region but not completed due to lack of funding.

IV. 1.4 Strengthen internal UN coordination on SGBV

Given the complexity of the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding context in Mali and the limited resources available in the area of SGBV prevention and response, the UN system needed to

strengthen internal information sharing, coordination and joint planning in order to work more efficiently and effectively.

To support inter-agency coordination and joint planning within the UN system including MINUSMA, 3 internal coordination meetings on GBV were held with UN entities working on SGBV.

In 2016, with the support of UNFPA, UNICEF and UNWOMEN, a UN-internal ad hoc working group (*Groupe de réflexion stratégique sur l'appui du système des Nations Unies en matière des violences basées sur le genre*) was created to respond to the need for increased information sharing, coordinating approaches and exchange on strategic and technical issues within the UN system in Mali. MINUSMA, OCHA, UNHCR and UNDP also actively participated in these meetings.

In 2017, a one-day retreat for this ad hoc group to share information on annual program planning and program priorities was organized. Participants recommended that coordination and joint planning needed to be strengthened.

In 2018, a one-day meeting was organized with 50 participants members (60% women and 40% men) of the national monitoring committee for the adoption of the Gender Based Violence law and composed of governmental, civil society to evaluate the process of development of the national strategy to end GBV in Mali and planned the implementation of the 4-regional workshop.

3.1.2 Main outcomes and outputs of the project

Outcome: A comprehensive national strategy on SGBV was validated by the Government of Mali with the contribution of all key stakeholders at national and regional levels to ensure a more efficient and effective response as well as coordination and joint planning between the development, humanitarian and peacekeeping actors within the UN system in Mali. The strategy has been developed through a participatory and inclusive process, under the lead of the PNLE, resulting in a 12 years national holistic strategy 2019-2030 to end SGBV which was validated at regional and national levels. Its implementation through 3 quarterly budgeted action plans (2019-2022; 2023-2026; 2027-2030) will accelerate the elimination of gender-based violence in Mali.

Output 1: The capacity of 50 governmental(women and men) and national nongovernmental actors was reinforced on SGBV. This helped them to participate and contribute in all the steps of developing the national strategy

Output 2: 10 regions and the district of Bamako were consulted on the national strategy against SGBV/CRSV and this helped to consider the regions specific priorities in the strategy through regional plans. These consultations across all regions were attended by many men and women and was the opportunity to collect specific data by region and to improve the draft strategy document shared with the regional actors

Output 3: 1 study tour was conducted in Cote d'Ivoire to share lessons learnt and best practices

Output 4: Information on SGBV activities conducted by UN actors in Mali discussed and exchanged.

3.2 Explain any implementation constraints, and the lessons learned from addressing these and knowledge gained in the course of the project.

The major constraint in the implementation of the project was difficult access to the northern regions due to the persistence of armed conflict and insecurity that affected some activities implementation schedule. For example, the regional concertation of the Gao Pôle (Gao, Kidal, Menaka) was 2 months behind schedule due to the fact due the unavailability of flights. Finally, the government negotiated the flight with the Malian Armed Forces to ensure the transportation of the facilitation team by aircraft.

3.3 Discuss key partnerships and inter-agency collaboration and their impact on the results being reported on.

The commitment of all agencies of the United Nations especially UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, as well as of MINUSMA has enabled the development of the national strategy to end SGBV. Their commitment will also be needed for the implementation of the 3 quarterly action plans of the national strategy to end SGBV.

3.4 Indicate other highlights and cross cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.

None

4. Financial Resources

4.1 Provide information on other funding resources available to the project, if applicable.

The UN Action funds have been used for all planned activities. A portion of UNICEF's own funds (20 million XOF) were added for the dissemination phase of the strategy to regional and district actors.

4.2 Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.

There was no budget revision for the funds allocated to the MPFEF which amounted to 92,700 USD. This amount includes also United Nations activities. The allocated amount for Ministry of Women, Children and Family is 86,700 USD.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Report

Activity	Output Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	% Implemented	Comments	Outcomes
1.1 Organize capacity building workshops for a government and NGO actors	# of capacity building workshops conducted	0	2	1	50%	1 capacity building with 50 participants among them women and men was planned but 1 capacity building workshop was organized with 50 participants among them women and men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of government and non-governmental actors to combat SGBV & CRSV is enhanced Bamako district and other regions in the country are consulted on the national strategy against SGBV/CRSV Best practices and experiences on the development of national SGBV strategies are exchanged with another country in the sub-region Coordination and information-sharing of UN entities addressing SGBV and CRSV in Mali is improved
	# of government and NGO actors trained in combatting SGBV and CRSV	0	50	50	100%		
1.2 Hold consultations with actors at the decentralized level for input on the national strategy on SGBV	# of regions in the country consulted	0	11*	11	100%	10 regions (Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou, Mopti, Gao, Tombouctou, Kidal, Menaka, Taoudeni) and the Bamako District were consulted for input on the national strategy on SGBV and 4 consultation workshops attended by women and men conducted with regional actors	
	# of consultation workshops conducted with regional actors	0	4	4	100%		
1.3 Organize a study/exchange visit between Mali and	# of study visits conducted to chosen country in the region	0	1	1	100%	1 exchange visit was organize between Mali and Ivory Cost	

another country in the region	# of key lessons learned from study tour(s)	0	5	5	100%		
1.4 Strengthen internal UN coordination on SGBV	# of internal coordination meetings held by UN entities on GBV	0	3	3	100%	3 internal coordination meetings were held by UN entities to coordinate SGBV strategy development process. UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, ONUFEMMES, OCHA, UNHCR, and MINUSMA participate in coordination meetings.	
	# of UN entities working on SGBV that participate in coordination meetings	0	5	5	100%		

ANNEXE : National strategy to end GBV and its budgeted actions plans and framework

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