



Deployment of National Staff in Mali Supporting the development of a National Strategy on Gender Based Violence, including Sexual Violence In Conflict	
UNA046	
UN ACTION MPTF PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT	
Country	Mali
Project Start Date	09/16
Project Completion Date	06/18
UN Implementing Entities	UNDP
Name of Reporting Focal Point	Fatimata Traoré Ossade
Title of Reporting Focal Point	Programme Specialist Governance
Report Date	21/19

1. Background

Guidance: Include a brief description of the project - explain the project's purpose and rationale, which CRSV gaps it seeks to address, who are the UN implementing partners and the value-added each one brings considering their respective mandates; describe the objectives of the project and its technical approach.

Project's purpose and rationale:

While the UN system in Mali has 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 conflict and ongoing challenging security and humanitarian context. In UN Action's experience in settings such as Côte d'Ivoire and DRC, National Strategies must have specific components addressing CRSV in order to ensure that prevention, protection and response to CRSV is adequate and effective.

An international SGBV /CRSV expert seconded by the Swiss Government was deployed through UN Action to provide technical support to the UNCT, including on developing a national SGBV/CRSV strategy. In support of the international expert's work, it was considered strategic to fund a national expert position in the Ministry for Women, Children and Family Affairs (MPFEF) to facilitate the work of the Swiss Expert by helping with access to local grassroots organizations, facilitating the consultative process of developing the National Strategy and acting as the liaison between the different

Ministries. In addition, this post would help to build the capacity of national staff and ensure national ownership through transfer of knowledge and integration of technical advice into national policies and strategies. The national staff while based within the Ministry will maintain direct engagement with UN Country Team and in particular with UNDP. Under the direct supervision of UNDP, the national staff will attend coordination meetings, seek advice and support from existing technical expertise, actively seek to create synergies with existing programmatic frameworks to ensure that support provided to the Ministry for Women, Children and Family Affairs is inline and coherent with the overall objective of the UN operations support in Mali.

To that end, a national staff was recruited by UNDP in collaboration with UN Action and seconded to the Ministry of Women, Children and Family Affairs to collaborate with the international consultant in her mission and ensure under her supervision the necessary support for the conception of the national strategy, the national action plan and regional operational plans and its budgeting.

UN implementing partners: UNDP

Objectives:

The objectives of the project are to enhance the national capacities of the Ministry for Women, Children and Family Affairs at the technical and institutional level, through a structured coordination with key ministries, elected institutions and the civil society in order to address issues of inequality toward gender based violence, in the context of conflict. Also, it will allow to consolidate the leadership of the Ministry for Women, Children and Family Affairs to coordinate all efforts for the development of methods, means and mechanisms of reinforcement and implementation of the strategy on GBV, including sexual violence in conflict.

Expected results:

At the end of the consultation, the country has a Strategy on Gender Based Violence, including sexual violence in conflict, an action plan and a regional operational plan.

2. Project Implementation – Overview & Results in 2017

a) Activities Undertaken

Guidance: In line with the project's work plan, describe the main coordination and implementation activities undertaken as part of this project during 2017 as well as any other activities implemented in synergy to project activities, if any.

- Recruit a national expert to be seconded to the Ministry of Women, Children and Family Affairs (November 2016-April 2017)
- Establish the National Expert's work station at the *Programme national de lutte contre l'excision* (PNLE - National Program against female genital mutilation) which was the designated structure by the Ministry of Women, Children and Family Affairs

to lead and coordinate the process of developing a national SGBV strategy. The national expert takes up her position on 15 June 2017.

The national expert provided technical support to the Ministry of Women, Children and Family Affairs, and in particular to the PNLE, in following areas:

- Provided technical support to the development of a comprehensive draft law on sexual and gender-based violence which includes provision on prevention, repression/protection, and holistic care for victims of SGBV. The draft law was developed through a participatory multiple stakeholder process by federating several existing initiatives led by civil society organizations on the one hand, and parliamentarians on the other hand. The national expert supported the PNLE in finalizing the draft law before it was formally handed over to the Ministers for Women, Children and Family Affairs and of Justice before she left project in may 2018
- Provided technical support to the development of a National Communication Strategy on SGBV - project technically and financially supported by UNICEF;
- Provided technical support to the development of an advocacy tool (MPFEF project supported by USAID/Health Policy Plus);
- Contributed to the methodology for the process to develop a National Strategy on SGBV;
- Contributed technical support to raise funds for the implementation of the activities related to the development of a national SGBV strategy;
- Contributed technical support on the integration of SGBV to the mid-review of PNLE's action plan 2015- 2019 (supported by UNICEF)
- Supported the organization of international days such as “La Panafricaine”, “16 Days of Activism against GBV”, “International Day against Female Genital Mutilation”

The activities undertaken are in close synergy with the UN Action MPTF grant for the project “Supporting the development of a comprehensive national strategy against sexual and gender-based violence including sexual violence in conflict” (UNA052).

b) Results & Impacts

Guidance: Describe the main results and impacts achieved through the project during 2017, NOTE: If possible, include quotes and statements that may help you illustrate your project's story

Results:

The deployment of the national expert contributed to the following results:

- A comprehensive draft SGBV/CRSL law is handed over to the Minister of Women, Children and Family Affairs and the Minister of Justice.
- The process of developing a national strategy on SGBV/CRSV could be started, a participatory and inclusive methodology for the process was adopted by the MPFEF

Impact :

UNACTION support has enabled the Ministry for Women, Children and Family Affairs (MPFEF) to develop a national strategy on Gender Based Violence, including sexual violence in conflict, and action plan that has been adopted by the government. At this stage, it is difficult to assess the impact of this strategy on practices in the country, it would take some time to make this evaluation

c) Sustainability

Guidance: Focus on the project's catalytic effect – describe follow-up activities that are being implemented or will be undertaken as a result of the project (if any), including replication in other settings if applicable

The methodology of the process of developing a national strategy has 3 guiding principles, namely 1) Political will; 2) participatory and inclusive process; 3) institutional leadership, ownership and coordination

Throughout the process, the participation of all stakeholders is at the center, ensured by multisectoral working groups and combined with capacity building activities for the actors involved. This will allow involved actors to build their own capacities and take ownership of the process. In order to capitalize on previous projects, the created technical structures for the development of the national strategy were based on existing multisectoral coordination structures to avoid duplication and the creation of new mechanisms that are difficult to sustain.

3. Lessons-Learned & Best practices

Guidance: Describe main challenges encountered during project implementation in 2017; outline any lessons-learned and good practices that emerged throughout the implementation of the project and how they will be used to inform future programming and/or project replication

Main challenges:Institutional:

- Very limited capacity of the MPFEF to efficiently coordinate and ensure leadership on SGBV matters at a national and governmental level
- Ongoing internal reform process to restructure de MPFEF: creates a period of transition which further weakens internal coordination, responsibilities for SGBV matters and information sharing within the Ministry (plan to create a future National Program on SGBV to centralize SGBV issues within the same structure. Currently different Departments and National Programs are responsible for different types of SGBV).
- PNLE: limited capacity both in terms of technical expertise and human resources (some senior staff members left the program during the project implementation period) to lead a national process. The limited availability of a national counterpart

at the PNLE has slowed down the implementation of the activities. The deployment of the national expert helped mitigate the problem to a certain extent.

- Different political priorities – the MPFEF has various political priorities of which the national strategy is only one. The development of the draft SGBV law and the reform project for the National Program on SGBV was prioritized over the development of the national strategy. There is also a strong link between availability of funds.
- Institutional instability leading to several changes at the head of the MFEF's departure could be a delay factor in the progress of this agenda
- Local ownership: due to the limited internal capacity and a working approach more commonly based on external consultants, getting the full involvement of the Ministry and sense of ownership and leadership is challenging.

Contextual:

- Lack of data on SGBV, in particular for some sectors such as the health sector

Secondment of expert to Ministry:

- The set-up of inter-agency experts who are seconded and have different affiliations (deployment, secondment, etc.) is challenging in terms of logistic and administrative procedures between agencies and with the Ministry

Lessons learned & Best practices

- 1) The best way to ensure the institutional ownership of a national strategy is to put state structures at the center of all actions (from decision-making to monitoring and evaluation, through the development of terms of reference and the implementation of activities).
- 2) Given the limited overall capacities of the MPFEF, it is important to strengthen human resources capacities (number of staff) from the beginning in order to implement complex projects that require the participation and involvement of the Ministry.

