



UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT
CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE – MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND
INTERIM REPORT (Template)

CRSV response to the urgent needs of affected women and girls in Ménaka and Gao regions in Mali	
Participating UN Organisations	UNFPA
Project Start Date	(21/03/2023)
Project Completion Date (estimated)	(31/05/2024)
Project Duration	12 months + 3 months of NCE
Geographic Location(s)	Menaka and Gao regions, Mali
Name, Title and Contact information of Reporting Focal Point(s) from all implementing agencies.	Ms Cecilia Sanchez-Bodas, Humanitarian Coordinator, +223 84639652 bodas@unfpa.org
Project Budget	Total: \$900,583.00
Reporting Period	(21/March/2023) to (31/December/ 2023)
Report Date	30 March 2024

General guidance: This reporting form is to be used for six monthly and annual reporting. Please complete **all** sections of this reporting form including the Logframe. Please also attach all documents requested in Section 7. Once the report is submitted UN Action will review the report and follow up as needed.

1. Project Context

Mali is the scenario of a political and security crisis since 2012 that has spread throughout the region affecting several neighboring countries. The presence of non-state armed groups but also to the rising crime and tensions between communities have all accrued instability, most notably in the North and Center of the country, but increasingly in the South as well.

Civilians, especially women and girls, constantly face human rights violations, resulting in forced and preventive displacements. According to the 2022 Secretary General's Report on CRSV, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) verified 98 cases of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting 85 women and 13 girls. From January to September 2023, the protection monitoring system reported 8,924 human rights violations.

The Gender-Based Violence (GBV AoR) domain and the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) reported 8,653 cases of GBV. 98% of survivors are women and girls, with 42% under the



age of 18. Sexual violence remains predominant, accounting for 51% of incidents, with 39% being rape cases.

In the Malian context, Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) is a complex issue exacerbated by a multitude of socio-political and economic factors. Armed conflicts, ethnic and religious tensions, as well as political instability, contribute to the perpetuation of CRSV. Additionally, discriminatory cultural practices and gender inequalities reinforce the vulnerability of women and girls to sexual violence during conflict. This violence has devastating consequences on individuals and communities, compromising the security, mental health, and well-being of survivors.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) involves various parties in conflict, and it is important to recognize that perpetrators can include state actors, non-state armed group and other entities. Governments may be hesitant to acknowledge fault in CRSV for various reasons including denial and accountability, concerns about reputation, internal political dynamics, national security concerns. The Government of Mali has disputed in the past reports of human rights violations committed by state actors and in February 2023, declared the Director of Human Rights Division of the UN Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and Representative of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, persona non grata. Since the MINUSMA withdrawal there is not presence of the OHCHR in the country, which limits the country's capacity to monitor and report human rights violations, including CRSV), reduce capacity for technical assistance or reduce international oversight among other challenges. However, Prevention and response activities continue to provide information, raise awareness and comprehensive services to survivors through projects like this one supported by UN Action.

On June 30th, 2023, two weeks after the Government of Mali had requested the withdrawal without delay of the United Nations Mission of Stabilization in Mali, the UN Security Council unanimously approved the complete withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces in Mali by 31 December 2023.

The unexpected and rushed withdrawal of the mission will have an impact on humanitarian operations increasing the costs due to reduction of access and loss of logistical and security support that MINUSMA has given to the Humanitarian actors across Mali.

Since the beginning of the withdrawal, Mali has experienced a recrudescence of the conflict between the parties causing an increase of forced displacement of civilians and a reduction of access to basic services and restriction of movements for humanitarian actors.

The region of Menaka was the first region closing the MINUSMA camp, while the closing down was done without major incidents, the region has experienced an increase of attacks to civilian population and criminality as well as clashes between the parties in conflict.

The region of Gao has also experienced a deterioration of security, increased displacement, and reduction of humanitarian action. The MINUSMA camp in Gao will be the last one to close down at the end of December.

The North region can currently be considered in a state of war between the Armed Groups and Malian Armed Forces; harassment and violence against the civilian population is on the rise in both North and Center regions.



The impact of MINUSMA withdrawal is already seen on the deterioration of the safety and security in the areas of intense humanitarian interventions, including expansion of non-state armed groups in the national territory. It is unpredictable the level and severity of it, however, the clear and most immediate impact will be on transport and logistics of humanitarian personnel and supplies. UNFPA has developed a contingency plan, with an analysis of the impact of MINUSMA withdrawal on its operations identifying risk reductions activities to mitigate such impact. As part of the plan, UNFPA is prepositioning supplies in the affected regions and is also actively searching to partner with local organizations to build their capacity to increasingly enable local organizations to be more responsive in the humanitarian context. UNFPA is also prioritizing local procurement of supplies (especially dignity kits) to reduce the burden and cost of transportation.

Following the phased drawdown, all the substantive programmes conducted by MINUSMA ended on June 30th, 2023, including the activities included in the current project. Therefore, the activities related to output 1.2 “Increased engagement and capacity of signatory armed groups to prevent and respond to CRSV” cannot be implemented that were led by MINUSMA have been reprogrammed to strengthen the prevention and response activities implemented by UNFPA and its partners.

2. Progress Summary

a. Project Goal

The project goal is to ensure the quality holistic care services (medical, psychosocial, and socio-economic reintegration) and the protection of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) survivors and at risk groups in Gao and Menaka IDPs camps.

Through the different components of the project, UNFPA and its partners is progressing towards the project goal increasing capacity of communities to reduce risks, prevent and response to GBV/CRSV cases in the targeted areas, using mobile clinics to reach out to communities with less access to services and providing training to service providers for a more effective response.

In 2023, 362 survivors have been assisted with comprehensive case management in mobile clinics and the One Stop Center, 130 women and girls have been trained as mentors, 9112 people have benefited from raise awareness sessions and 24 Early Warning Systems have been established in the IDP sites. Regarding psychosocial support 2967 women and girls GBV survivors and at risk have benefited from psychosocial support at the IDP camps, 602 of them were during the listening sessions (individual and collective). The culinary activities are part of the psychosocial support interventions and also contribute to build life skills for the survivors; 2364 women have benefitted from culinary activities since the beginning of the project.

The team has established the basis for the cash transfer programmes; workshop and information session with authorities and partners have been conducted to establish targeting criteria. The workshop also has the objective of involving them in the establishment of the criteria and all the different steps of the establishment of the programme to ensure ownership and sustainability; In 2023, a total of 450 people benefited from the monetary transfer. Each beneficiary received 250



dollars and the transfer was made to the mobile phone company via its Orange Money service, they are also key to establish a mechanism of complaints and feedback on the programme.

b. Project Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities

Outcome 1: Strengthened commitment and resources for ending CRSV by local key actors

Output 1.1 Community mechanisms for prevention and protection against CRSV are functional

UNFPA is implementing this project through IEDA Relief as its implementing partner and the Regional Directorate of Health in Menaka and Gao. Two approaches were used to build community capacity to promote behaviour change and stimulate the reporting and referral of GBV cases including CRSV cases.

Establishment of Early Warning mechanism (comite de veille communautaire :

During the reporting period 24 *comites* have been established and all of them are functional. They play an important role on identifying incidents and referral of GBV cases to the reference centers for case management. Each committee developed an action plan that includes sensibilization activities, awareness raising sessions with the community and promotion of radio programmes that disseminate prevention messages and information for survivors. The plan also includes activities to follow up cases identified through the mobile clinics or through any other mechanisms and organization of community dialogues. All committees meet regularly (every 3 months) to monitor the plan, the achievements and the adjustments needed.

Mentorship on GBV including CRSV :

Since the beginning of the project, 130 women and girls have been trained as mentors on prevention and response of GBV and CRSV, aiming to promote information sharing and communication for a positive behavior change. The mentors also have an action plan that aims at strengthening their capacities to share key and vital information about prevention and response, signs of alert and psychological support as well as reference of cases towards the appropriate care sites.

These two community activities have reached 8729 people that benefited from raise awareness sessions about GBV/CRSV identification, prevention and response as well as message to reduce stigma of survivors and create a enabling environment to increase reporting and access to integrated care.

UNFPA has also bought 2, 500 Dignity kits and 517 have been already distributed among women survivors of VBG in the IDP camps of Taykaren : 71 Kits, Bokotchi : 100 Kits, Intitaliwene : 40 Kits, Abattoir : 30 Kits, ORTM : 30 Kits, Essakane II : 100 Kits, Camp de garde : 80 Kits, Zebus : 40 Kits, Madina : 80 Kits

Output 1.2 Increased engagement and capacity of signatory armed groups to prevent and respond to CRSV

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) present in the country since 2014 and with more than 13,000 personnel (civil and military) is withdrawing



at the end of 2023 following the demand from the Government of Mali and the resolution of the Security Council on June 30th to complete the withdrawal in a period of 6 months. Following a phased drawdown, all the substantive programmes conducted by MINUSMA ended on June 30th, 2023, including the activities included in the current project.

The activities related to Output 1.2 had not yet started by at that time.

Outcome 2:

70 % of CRSV survivors are better supported through improved access to comprehensive and multisectoral assistance, including medical, psychological, and livelihoods.

Output 2.1 Women and girls' survivors have improved access to quality holistic care services.

In order to strengthen services, the health centers were equipped with post-rape kits. The referencing system has also been updated. The services providers were also trained on the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) in order to improve quality of data.

To increase access to services in the hard to reach areas, UNFPA has recruited 3 midwives that are regularly deployed to identify and treat and refer women and girls that are at risk or have experience GBV/CRSV; they also offer other Sexual and reproductive health services such as pre-natal and post-natal consultation and family planning advise, This activity is closely coordinated with the Directorate of regional health services (DRS) as the midwives work under the direction of the DRS. In total they achieved , 916 prenatal consultations, 190 assisted deliveries, postnatal consultations, 171 people who benefited from a family planning method and approximately 587 awareness sessions on SRH/FP themes.

The strategy also includes mobile clinics that are frequent and regularly deployed in the different IDP camps and offer an integrated package of SRH/GBV including mental health services. Up to 362 cases of GBV have been taken care of during the mobile clinics and 46 cases have been referred towards the One Stop Center of Menaka.

The Psychosocial activities also continue for GBV survivors and those at risk in the IDP camps and in the reference centers such as the One Stop Center of the Health Center of Reference (CSRef). Up to 2966 women and girls GBV survivors and at risk have benefited from psychosocial support at the IDP camps, 536 of them were during the listening sessions (individual and collective). The culinary activities are part of the psychosocial support interventions and also contribute to build life skills for the survivors; 2364 women have benefitted from culinary activities since the beginning of the project.

The listening sessions, individual and collective have been conducted in 18 IDP sites: Oufène, Dine de Congrès, Tabangoute1, Tabangoute2 ; Bokotie ; Abattoire ; Amaghala ; Intalakte ; Hewate ; Akoukou ; Camp de Garde ; Mbaramé ; Taykarène ; Bakotchi ; Inguimdani ; Zouna ; Tibitale ; Esakane1.

The culinary activities have been conducted in 10 IDP sites : Taykaren, Abattoire, Dines de Congres, Oufen, Amaghala, Tabangoute 1, Deuxième quartier, Intintaliwen, Bokotie, Camp de garde.



Output 2.2

450 survivors are empowered using cash and vouchers modalities to respond to GBV/CRSV

The members of the team have been trained in the director principles of GBV interventions and basic notions on cash transfers. The following activities took place to establish the basis for the cash transfers programme. The community workshop to identify target criteria (attended by responsible of the Regional Directorates involved : directorate of Promotion of Family and Women (DRPFEF) Regional Directorate of health (DRS), Regional Directorate of Social Development (DRDSES), Chief of IDP sites and 16 chiefs of neighborhood.

The workshop was conducted in June and was attended by the different authorities involved (25 people) : responsible DRPFEF, DRS, DRDSES, 4 Chief of IDP sites and 16 Chiefs of neighborhood). The objective was to inform and train on the methodology and target criteria to identify the beneficiaries of the cash transfers. The workshop also has the objective of involving them in the establishment of the criteria and all the different steps of the establishment of the programme to ensure ownership and sustainability; they are also key to establish a mechanism of complaints and feedback on the programme.

The organization of a session of orientation for the members of the Comittee of Local Support (CAL) on the cash transfer programme in the region of Menaka. The members of CAL have been identified using the following criteria: being volunteers, dynamic, having good references of high moral and behavior, being resident of the area of Menaka. The workshop trained them on the basis of cash transfer programme, criteria, etc.. they will support the team of IEDA Relief to identify the beneficiaries, accompany those that are illiterate to receive the funds, collect feedback or complaints and find solutions.

The CAL is composed of specialists on case management (IEDA Relief team, One Stop Center de Ménaka, DRDSES, DRPFEF and 3 mentors trained by IEDA Relief.

This local comittee guarantees the community participation and the certification of identity of the beneficiaries.

In 2023, a total of 450 people benefited from the monetary transfer. Each beneficiary received 250 dollars and the transfer was made to the mobile phone company via its Orange Money service,

Some used the funds to meet their urgent vital needs, others rather invested their funds in income-generating activities.

3. Project Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the project are the populations affected by the conflict in the regions of Gao and Menaka, especially those living in the IDP camps, however, services are also provided for host communities that share similar challenges regarding GBV/CRSV and access to services. This approach is in line with the principle of do not harm and help to reduce the risk of community tensions.

Women and girls are the main beneficiaries of the project as they are the most affected by GBV/DRSV' members of the community also benefit from the diverse activities implemented such



as information sessions, raise awareness sessions and the radio programmes that are accessible to most of the population. Local authorities and community leaders are also beneficiaries and necessary allies to ensure ownership and sustainability.

Figures on the number and type of beneficiaries are described in the previous section that report the main activities implemented to date.

UNFPA and its partners follow the principle of dignity, safety and respect of the survivors in all activities and conduct monitoring visits to ensure partners and all stakeholders involved follow these principles and recommend the necessary actions when needed to make adjustments as needed.

4. Challenges

The security situation is very volatile. Some of the areas that were accessible at the beginning of the project are not anymore. The clashes between the parties in conflict have intensified since July as well as the criminality and the targeted assassinations. The transport by road of supplies is not possible due to the frequent attacks and lootings being the air transportation the only current option. Since August and after the MINUSMA withdrawal, the number of flights has reduced and only UNHAS operates in the area.

UNFPA has developed a contingency plan, with an analysis of the impact of MINUSMA withdrawal on its operations identifying risk reductions activities to mitigate such impact. As part of the plan, UNFPA is prepositioning supplies in the affected regions and is also actively searching to partner with local organizations to build their capacity to increasingly enable local organizations to be more responsive in the humanitarian context. UNFPA is also prioritizing local procurement of supplies (especially dignity kits) to reduce the burden and cost of transportation.

Despite the critical situation UNFPA has established solid partnerships with local and international partners present in the regions of Menaka and Gao that allow the organization to continue working and providing support to the most affected populations through a community approach that increase acceptance and access.

The withdrawal of MINUSMA has caused the cancellation of the activities related to output 1.2 “Increased engagement and capacity of signatory armed groups to prevent and respond to CRSV” that were led by MINUSMA cannot be implemented and can be reprogrammed.

5. Lessons Learned

A lesson learned from this phase of the project is that localization is key to guarantee access and acceptance of the communities; the selection of IEDA Relief and organization based in the regions with national staff and good knowledge of the area and communities have been instrumental to maintain the access even in the most difficult time when access was increasingly restricted even for UNFPA staff. The continuous support of UNFPA team as co lead of the GBV Sub-cluster and the organization of regular and frequent meetings with partners have maintained all partners informed about the project and has help to coordinate activities in the field. The involvement of the local authorities from the beginning has been another lesson learned; especially as Menaka



has become an autonomous region very recently (it used to be dependent of Gao) and working closely with them has created a good alliance for the future of the intervention and the capacity building of the Health and Protection System.

6. Sustainability Plan

The strong focus on capacity building such as the mentorship programme, the training of service providers, the support and integration of DRS midwives into the activities of the project set the basis for sustainable results.

Additionally, UNFPA is also implementing other activities that involve youth participation especially girls, for example campaigns about menstrual hygiene; these activities are complementary and are used to share information about the project and the prevention and response of GBV/CRSV as well as encourage young people to be advocates within their communities.

The work and collaboration with other UN agencies present in the regions UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP reinforce the intervention and results.

UNFPA is mobilizing resources to continue this type of intervention in the regions to galvanize results and continue assisting the increasing humanitarian needs.

The main challenge to sustainability of the project is the conflict and the deterioration of the security situation.



7. Communicate Strategy, Products, Tools and Media

The team has a plan to collect and stories and testimonies from the beneficiaries respecting the principles of dignity and confidentiality.

Some photos of the activities implemented to date are posted below



STOP RAPE NOW

UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



de l'ingénierie dans la région de Menaka.



Formation des femmes en entrepreneuriat à Ménaka



Beneficiaire du cash





Image 3 : Poursuite de la séance de formation des femmes mentors à travers les groupes de travail.



Atelier communautaire d'identification des critères de ciblage des bénéficiaires du CVA

8. Voices and Stories

The team has a plan to collect and stories and testimonies from the beneficiaries respecting the principles of dignity and confidentiality that can be shared on the final report. The current security situation as well as the confidentiality issues make difficult the collection of stories and testimonies.

☐

Please check this box if you consent to UN Action using these quotes, statements, and stories for social media and advocacy purposes. Please note if there are any specific restrictions, such as anonymity of persons or organisations, that are required.

9. Budgetary and Spending Updates

Guidance: Have there been any changes to the budget or unanticipated spending? If so, please explain.

An amendment on the budget included on the request for reprogramming the MINUSMA led activities. The transport line has been increased as costs are on the rise since supplies can only be sent to Menaka and Gao by air. The travel budget line is reduced as the security situation does not allow travel to the regions as previously anticipated.

10. Contribution to UN Action's Results Framework

The project contributes to the UN Action Global Results intervening at institutional, community and individual level.

Specifically, it contributes to the Outcome 1 Survivors and at-risk groups are supported and protected and CRSV risks are prevented and mitigated (Res 1820) and related indicators

1. Increased UNA advocacy for prioritization of GBV/CRSV related activities in humanitarian response plans (HRPs) and refugee response plans (RRPs) and regional refugee and resilience plan (3RP)s
2. % survivor satisfaction with services to which they are referred
3. % of UN Action-funded projects that include two or more sectors of assistance for survivors

11. Next Steps

The following activities will continue in the next months:

- Case management of GBV/CRSV survivors through mobile clinics and other points of care.
- Follow up of the cash transfer programme and the beneficiaries.
- Follow up and implementation of action plan of Early Warning Systems at community level.
- Follow up and implementation of the action plan of the mentorship programme



12. Support and follow up from UN Action

UN Action has supported UNFPA on the request for the reprogramming of the initial MINUSMA allocation (USD\$ 223,999) after the end of MINUSMA Mandate on June 30, 2023, to the UNFPA led activities as well as a 3 months non cost extension until May 31st, 2024

13. Other comments and questions

UNFPA is grateful for the continuous support of UN Action to the implementation of this project and the overall CRSV agenda in Mali; this support is even more needed now in the current context after MINUSMA Withdrawal as explained in the background. A continuation of this project beyond May 31st with a geographical extension would be key to maintain the progress to date and continue prevention and response activities related to CRSV.

14. Results Framework (RESULTS FRAMEWORK IS ON A SEPARATE EXCELL DOCUMENT)

Guidance: Present progress and achievements against the Goal, Outcomes, Outputs, Activities and Indicators stated in the project's Results Framework (add more rows if necessary). Indicate the corresponding indicator code as stated in UNA's Strategic Framework (Results Framework) with an asterix*.

Project Title:			
Goal:			
OUTCOME 1: <i>[please write Outcome 1 description here]</i>			
Outcome Achievements: <i>[Please describe achievements for Outcome 1 here.]</i>			
Outcome Indicator	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
Output 1.1:			
Output 1.1 Achievements:			
Indicators	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
Activity 1.1.1:			
Activity 1.1.1 Achievements:			
Indicators	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification. Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
Output 1.2:			

Output 1.2 Achievements:			
Indicators	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
Activity 1.2.1:			
Activity 1.2.1 Achievements:			
Indicators	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
<i>OUTCOME 2: [please write Outcome 2 description here]</i>			
<i>Outcome Achievements: [Please describe achievements for Outcome 2 here.]</i>			
Outcome Indicator	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
Output 2.1:			
Output 2.1 Achievements:			
Indicators	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
Activity 2.1.1:			



Activity 1.1.1 Achievements:			
Indicators	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
Output 2.2:			
Output 2.2 Achievements: :			
Indicators	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
Activity 2.2.1:			
Activity 2.2.1 Achievements:			
Indicators	Original Baselines and Targets	Progress against Baselines and Targets	Verification Method
1.	1.	1.	
2.	2.	2.	
PROBLEM STATEMENT:			