Summary of Sida’s Assessment of the Development towards the Strategy Objectives and Implementation of the Contribution Portfolio

1. Strengthened democracy, gender equality and human rights
   
   1.1 Strengthened capacity in public institutions
   
   1.2 Increased respect for the rule of law
   
   1.3 Strengthened capacity in civil society to participate in political process
   
   1.4 Better conditions for gender equality and respect for human rights

2. Human security and freedom from violence
   
   2.1 Strengthened peace and reconciliation mechanisms
   
   2.2 Greater influence and women's participation in peace processes and peace building

3. A better environment, resilience to environmental impact and climate change
   
   3.1 Improved capacity to contribute to environmental sustainability and resilience
   
   3.2 Increased sustainability and resilience of agriculture
   
   3.3 Increased production and access to renewable energy

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1 Assessment of the development towards the strategy objectives: Green: Desirable direction; Yellow: Partially desirable direction; Red: Undesirable direction.

2 Assessment of the implementation of the contribution portfolio: Green: According to plan; Yellow: Partially according to plan; Red: Not as planned.
Sammanfattning


Sverige är tionde störste givare och räknas som en medelstor givare. Vad gäller sektorer är Sverige en bland många givare på områdena demokrati, jämställdhet och mänskliga rättigheter respektive mänsklig säkerhet, medan vi är en av de största på miljö- och klimatområdet. Det finns ett väl fungerade givarsamarbete, men intrycket är att intresset för harmonisering och samstämmighet successivt har minskat hos andra givare och att biståndet i större grad politiserats och därmed har visibilitet blivit viktigare på bekostnad av koordination. I kraft av sin storlek har dock Sverige kunnat bidra till en aktiv givarkoordinering på miljö- och klimatområdet.

Under 2017 utarbetades och fastställdes en operationaliseringsplan för strategin för utvecklingssamarbetet. Inom ramen för operationaliseringen bereddes insatser för det i strategin nya stödområdet Mänsklig säkerhet och målet Förnybar energi. Utvecklingen mot strategimålen bedöms ha rört sig delvis i önskvärd riktning, med undantag för målen 1.3 och 3.1 där utvecklingen bedöms som positiv. Sida bedömer att insatsportföljen har genomförts enligt plan.

1 Overview of the Strategy Context

| Total amount for the Strategy: 1 180 MSEK | Disbursed Amount 2017: 238,7 MSEK | Number of Contributions 2017: 20 |

1.1 Changes in the Context

Since the last strategy report, the context in Mali has seen a significant deterioration of the political and security situation. Insecurity has grown and spread to the centre of the country, and political turmoil surrounding the constitutional review process has delayed the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The terrorist threat also affected the capital, Bamako, which was subject to another attack in June, 2017.

Meanwhile, the capacity of the government to secure the entire country and to provide basic services remains limited in the north, which has strengthened relevance for Sida's efforts to increase resilience, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene in the area. The security concerns include both extremist attacks against the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and Mali's security forces, as well as clashes as a result of competition for natural resources between farmers and herders groups, as severe rainfall deficits has led to smaller crops and low levels of biomass. This makes Sida’s interventions in the area of climate change, management of
natural resources and sustainable development in the central Inner Niger Delta and conflict resolution around natural resource conflict all the more relevant.

Mali is experiencing a security crisis compounded by a critical humanitarian context. The worsening food security situation will add another layer to the complex instability affecting Mali, as the country enters an intense electoral period, culminating during the lean season with the 2018 presidential elections.

The possibility to conduct political dialogue has been constrained by frequent government reshuffles and political positioning in view of the elections.

The macro economic situation remained stable as Mali’s economic recovery continued in 2017. GDP growth remained robust, at an estimated 5.3 percent. After long negotiations, an agreement was reached with the IMF in March 2018 on the eighth review of Mali’s economic and financial programme and the 2018 Article IV consultation. The government has delayed implementation of commitments related to anti-corruption and increased transparency, both in relation to the IMF and the EU’s conditions for general budgetary support.

1.2 Sweden’s role in the strategy context

Sweden is considered a medium-sized donor and our influence and prospects for political dialogue and traction varies between sectors. While Sweden is one of several donors in the field of democracy, gender equality and human rights and human security, it is one of the largest in the environmental and climate field. Due to the relative importance, as well as sufficient ownership and political will on the part of the government, Sweden has for years been able to contribute to active donor coordination particularly in the environmental and climate area, but has also acted in this direction in the other support areas, notably around the election process. By combined efforts of the political and cooperation sections in the Swedish Embassy in Bamako, advancements has also been made in the area of Women, Peace and Security, where Sida has been contributing to a more strategic approach of UN Women, in its assistance to the government.

There is a well-functioning donor cooperation in Mali, but the common impression is that the interest in harmonization and coherence has gradually decreased among many donors and that aid has been more politically mobilized and thus visibility has become more important at the expense of coordination.
1.3 Synergies with Other Swedish Strategies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Donor Context</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total development assistance make up 23% of the</td>
<td>Sweden’s share of the total of development assistance</td>
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<td>national budget</td>
<td>constitutes 3 %</td>
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<td>Common donor strategy 2016 - 2018 is signed by</td>
<td>Common EU strategy is valid 2014- 2018</td>
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<td>21 donors.</td>
<td>Status of EU joint programming: Ongoing work to review the joint</td>
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<td>programming during 2018</td>
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<td>The five largest donors (organisations and/or</td>
<td>Sweden is the 10th largest donor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>countries) are: : The European Union, The World</td>
<td>Of the EU member states, Sweden is the fifth largest</td>
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<td>Bank (IDA), USA, France and Canada,</td>
<td>donor.</td>
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For more details, refer to the annex to this report and especially to Table 3 Outcome on all Appropriations in the Selected country. In accordance with the strategy, synergies have been sought with the Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa 2016-2021, in areas such as renewable energy and integrated water management. Sida also has regular consultations with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), which is responsible for performance targets for human security in the development cooperation strategy with Mali. So far, there is a clear synergy between the FBA secondment of an expert to UN Women, and Sida’s core support to the same organisation, as well as the long-standing Swedish support to develop the Malian modular household survey, the findings of which will be utilised in the collaboration between FBA and the Malian statistics institute. Sida will continue to explore synergies with the interventions of FBA as they are operationalized.

In addition, there is a commitment to strengthen the link between humanitarian and long-term development through efforts to strengthen the resilience of the poorest in central and northern Mali. These include support to Action Contre la Faim (ACF), aimed at improving vulnerability of food safety by increasing food production, increasing household income and reducing vulnerability to disasters by establishing and implementing a cross-sectoral approach including food supply, jobs and livelihoods, nutrition as well as water and sanitation. This support is provided in coordination with the Sida Humanitarian department, which in turn supports the organisation from the humanitarian side.

1.4 Allocation between areas of Support

For more details, refer to the annex to this report and especially to Table 1 Financial Overview & Table 2 Agreed Amounts.

In 2017, an amount of SEK 238.7 million was disbursed for Sweden's development cooperation with Mali. This means a utilization of 100% of the year's allocation. The breakdown in the respective support areas of the strategy is as follows: Support area 1: Strengthened democracy and gender equality, and increased respect for human rights, an amount of SEK 100.6 million has been paid, for support area 2: Human security and freedom from violence SEK 35.5 million and for support area 3: A better environment, limited climate impact and greater resilience to environmental impact, climate change and natural disasters SEK 102.6 million.

The portfolio is deemed to have reached a level of maturity in terms of volume, modalities and variety of partners in 2017. An operationalization plan for the strategy was drawn up in spring 2017 and subsequently adopted in July 2017. As part of the operationalization, one contribution was prepared in the new support area Human security and freedom from violence and a contribution targeting the
private sector was launched under the new objective Increased production of and improved access to renewable energy under the support area 3.

There are significant synergies and integration between the different support areas, in particular as regards conflict prevention, gender equality and resilience. During 2017, the conflict perspective was strengthened in the preparation of contributions in the environment and climate area, both in terms of analysis and in the results framework. In the preparation of phase two of the Wetland Programme focus was put on, inter alia, strengthening the capacity for resilience of poor women and men in order to enable better living conditions and livelihood, as well as clearer guidelines for land use, which leads to better security and, in the long run, a reduced number of internally displaced persons.

As the operationalization of the strategy progresses during 2018 the volume allocated under support area 2 and 3 is expected to increase somewhat as contributions are added under human security, energy and agriculture, in accordance with the operationalization plan. It is expected that support area 3 will be the largest in terms of volume, as this is an area with mature contributions and where Sweden has a strong presence and political dialogue. In support area 2 of Human security Sida will focus on relatively smaller strategic interventions, and seek synergies with Sweden’s political efforts. The amount allocated to support area 1 is expected to remain roughly at the current level, as one contribution is phased out and another will be prepared in 2019 in order to align closer to the strategy.

2 Results reporting

2.1 Area of Support 1: Strengthened democracy and gender equality, and greater respect for human rights:

2.1.1 Objective 1.1: Strengthened capacity among public institutions to provide basic public services

Development towards the strategy objective

The overall development towards the strategy objective is assessed to be mixed. The deteriorating security situation in the northern and central parts of the Mali has limited the presence of the state in those areas, and consequently negatively affected public institutions’ ability to provide basic social services to the local population. For example, an increasing number of schools have closed due to the conflict in northern and central Mali. In January 2018 it was estimated by UNICEF that 15 percent of the schools were closed (673 out of 4580 schools). Several health centres are still closed (17%) and the return of qualified personnel is limited in view of persistent insecurity. In the main urban hubs of central and northern Mali, some basic services have been rehabilitated and the redeployment of State administration and technical staff is still ongoing.

During 2017 the Government of Mali began preparatory work for carrying out a general census in 2018-19, which has brought extra traction to statistics work. The census and by consequence availability of objective up-to-date population data is of great importance, not least from a conflict perspective. The basis for the governments financial contribution comes largely from the national statistics fund which was established by law in 2016, as previously reported. Several donors are contributing to this work, and Sida is including such a contribution in its plan for 2018.
Portfolio level

The Swedish portfolio amounted to 46.455 MSEK and is assessed to have been implemented as planned. It includes mainly two contributions - the institutional and financial support to the Malian Statistics Institute, as well as a thematic support within the scope of UNICEF Country Programme oriented towards WASH (water sanitation and hygiene) and an component of social protection increasing the capacity of the Ministry for solidarity and humanitarian affairs to identify vulnerable individuals in order to provide them with free health care. Both interventions remain strategic in relation to the strategy objective.

Contribution level

The collaboration between INSTAT and Statistics Sweden (SCB)\(^3\) continues and was subject to an external midterm evaluation\(^4\) at the end of 2017 that was generally very positive. The focus on capacity building, both regarding production and analysis of statistics and on the management of INSTAT is much appreciated by all parties involved, as is the direct collaboration between the two sister organisations. The Mali government decision in 2016 to allow INSTAT more freedom in terms of recruitment has allowed the institution to retain competent staff. This has become more apparent in 2017. The thematic statistical field that saw the most improvements 2017 was economic data.

The Swedish support to the UNICEF WASH component during 2016-17 contributed to ensuring increased access to drinking water for 140 000 individuals in the northern and central regions by the rehabilitation of 304 water points, 116 000 individuals in urgent need through the distribution of water treatment kits or water trucks and 8 000 children in 41 schools\(^5\). The support has increased the resilience of the most vulnerable as the support is delivered with a multi-sectoral approach. The importance of this contribution can be noted in the context of an estimated annual financial need of 162 MUSD to achieve the basic SDG goal 6 related to access to water in Mali (668 MUSD needed annually to ensure secure access). The sector remains largely underfunded. The flexibility of the funds ensured that UNICEF could ensure linkages between the humanitarian and development activities, implementing the nexus, and continuity of activities related to long-term development despite security challenges and a changing environment. As an example, UNICEF has to a further extent chosen technologies that are more apt for sustainable and long-term solutions rather than only meeting immediate demand. UNICEF continues to play a key role in coordinating between actors in the water sector.

2.1.2 Objective 1.2: Increased respect for the rule of law

Development towards the strategy objective

As regards development on the national level, the results during 2017 were mixed. The judicial system in Mali has many shortcomings as it does not have the human and financial resources to carry out the mandate entrusted to it, and reforms have been sluggish. During 2017 there were a few, but important advancements for the return of government institutions to the northern and central regions, but state

\(^3\) Amélioration de la qualité, de la disponibilité et de l’analyse des données statistiques pour les besoins des utilisateurs, 5113061

\(^4\) Johan Holmberg, Jocke Nyberg (Nordic Consulting Group) 2017, On the right track, Report from a monitoring mission of Statistics Sweden’s capacity building support to Mali’s Institut National de la Statistique

\(^5\) UNICEF, draft WASH Sectoral and Thematic Report, January – December 2017
presence remains very limited, hampering local populations access to justice. In addition, serious abuses continued to be committed by local parties in the armed conflict, including violation of the right to life, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as well as the recruitment of child soldiers, and sexually based violence.

The government has developed a National transitional justice policy and plan of action 2017-2021, as well as a national human rights policy, which take into account the interests of Malian citizens, without discrimination based on gender, social rank or ethnicity. The Algiers Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali (2015) provides for the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law throughout Malian territory, and legislation to establish this commission is under preparation. The Government has also benefited from the technical assistance of MINUSMA, OHCHR and the International Criminal Court, to investigate and prosecute the international crimes within its jurisdiction, especially crimes committed in the north and centre of the country since January 2012.

**Portfolio level**

The Swedish portfolio in this area amounted to 8.2 MSEK in 2017 and is largely assessed to have been implemented according to plan. The main intervention is a contribution to the Malian civil society organization Deme So, in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Humans Rights for access to justice. The overall aim of the contribution - to provide legal aid and assistance to marginalized groups and individuals and to promote citizen participation - remains particularly relevant, and a continued support will be prepared in 2018.

**Contribution level**

Within the programme for access to justice⁶, all the 121 paralegals funded by Sida, of which more than half are women, are now trained in the concepts of transitional justice. This has enabled them to support targeted peacebuilding processes in their respective communities. During the year, messages to the population regarding the truth and reconciliation committee were conveyed in cooperation with local radio stations across the country and various awareness raising activities were also carried out in the northern and central parts of the country. However, the slow advancement of submitted cases of human rights abuses still prevailed and was even further slowed down during the first quarter of the year when judges went on strike. The curriculum for paralegal training developed through the programme is considered by the Ministry of Justice to represent the national norm. Deme So is also contributing to a second survey on user satisfaction of the judicial system in Mali, which will be finalized in 2018.

**2.1.3 Objective 1.3: Strengthened capacity of civil society to participate in political processes and promote accountability**

**Development towards the strategy objective**

The overall development towards the strategy objective is assessed to be positive. The civil society in Mali has become more complex in the past years, with the rise of social movements among the young population, that make extensive use of social media to organize themselves, and take to the streets to make themselves heard. In August various political and civil society groups rallying under the

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platform Antè Abana, which means “We do not want, it’s over”, managed to pressure the President IBK into suspend the referendum procedure to revise Mali’s constitution. Presidential and parliamentary elections are scheduled for 2018, amid concerns if security conditions will allow for voter participation across the country, and the consequent risk of undermined legitimacy and post-electoral tensions. Although, transparency and accountability on a national level may sometimes be contested, the prospects for working with participation and accountability on a local municipal level, such as in the Swedish interventions, are quite advantageous.

**Portfolio level**

The Swedish portfolio in this area amounted to 13.390 MSEK in 2017 and has been implemented according to plan. It consists mainly of the Programme for Local Democratic Governance (LDG), implemented by four INGOs - Diakonia, Norwegian Church Aid, SNV and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation together with local civil society organisations. The intervention, which aims to improve inclusiveness and accountability of land governance and prevent conflict linked to land management in Mali, has achieved good results and has strong synergies with support area 2. However, as the programme has been running for a period of 12 years it will now be phased out in order to consolidate results. During 2018 Sida will commence preparations for a new civil society support aligned to the strategy objective. In addition, a contribution to the basket fund for election support administered by UNDP is under preparation.

**Contribution level**

The LDG programme supported by Sida in this area has continued to contribute to increased transparency and demand for accountability, through four international NGO: s working and supporting with local organisations. During 2017 a network for securing land rights, were able to organise an open hearing by the relevant authority, le Haut Conseil des Collectivités Territoriales, and make a written submission into the elaboration of the national land rights policy and an action plan for 2017-2021. The programme also contributed to 18 cases of conflict resolution around natural resources in 10 municipalities, but perhaps more noteworthy is the fact that half of the municipalities where the programme organized consultations around natural resource conflicts were able to resolve or prevent conflict between different groups, mainly farmers and livestock herders. They also supported actors in local municipalities in a programme for “citizens’ watch” to analyse local budgets and conduct local consultations to promote accountability.

2.1.4  **Objective 1.4: Better conditions for gender equality and respect for human rights, with a focus on the rights of women and children**

**Development towards the strategy objective**

Overall, development towards the strategy objective is assessed to be mixed. During 2017, the rights’ climate deteriorated in Mali as armed non-state groups committed frequent abuses against the population, including summary executions, and counterterrorism operations by Malian security forces also resulted in human rights abuses. Furthermore, recruitment of children and their presence in armed groups, including signatory parties to the peace accord, is an alarming issue. The legal framework is discriminatory towards women, constraining efforts to promote women’s rights. In 2015 the government adopted a law stipulating that 30 percent of all new nominations to public office and the civil service should be women, but the application of the law has been slow. A positive step in the right direction was the elaboration of a draft law on gender-based violence, including provisions on
genital cutting, which was adopted by the ministry in January 2017. However, due to the presidential and general elections in 2018, the law is not expected to be examined by parliament until after the elections.

**Portfolio level**

The portfolio is assessed to have been implemented according to plan and amounted to 32,533 MSEK in 2017. In the area of gender equality and human rights, there are strong integration and significant synergies between different areas of support, contributing to this objective. For example, the support to statistics has contributed to the availability of gender disaggregated data on a national level, and the forest management programme contributes to women’s economic empowerment. The portfolio also includes two specific supports to this objective - thematic support to UNICEF child protection programme, and a core support to UN Women’s country programme 2016-2021. These two contributions are also mutually reinforcing, as the two organizations coordinate well, and the UNICEF programme also has a strong gender perspective for example as regards preventing gender-based violence, genital cutting and child marriages. The core support to UN Women has allowed the organization to work more strategically and less fragmented.

**Contribution level**

Through the collaboration between Statistics Sweden and Mali’s statistics institute INSTAT a publication called “Men and women in Mali” based on a Swedish model with gender disaggregated statistics is under elaboration and will be finalized in April 2018.

In the area of gender-based violence UNICEF and UN Women work with prevention, awareness raising, policy framework and victim support. They assisted the Ministry for women, children and family in the elaboration of a draft law on gender-based violence, including provisions on genital cutting, which was adopted by the ministry in January 2017. However, due to the presidential and general elections in 2018, the law is not expected to be examined by parliament until after the elections. UN Women contributed to the institution of a toll-free number “Numéro Vert” was established which victims of gender-based violence can call for support. The UNICEF programme also contributed to 42 new villages signing a public declaration to abandon genital cutting.  

2.2 Area of Support 2: Human security and freedom from violence

2.2.1 Objective 2.1: Strengthened peace and reconciliation mechanisms at national and local level

*Development towards the strategy objective*  

During the reporting period, the implementation of the 2015 the Algiers Peace Agreement has been slow and faced significant delays. Insufficient progress has been made on the institutional reforms that would allow for the implementation of key provisions of the Agreement, such as comprehensive security sector reform, the redeployment of the civil administration to the northern and central Mali, or the adoption of a revised constitution. A conference on national reconciliation in spring 2017, resulting

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in a charter for peace, unity and national reconciliation, provided the basis for a law of national reconciliation which was presented to the government in March. The draft law provides for amnesty for certain groups, as well as reparations to recognized victims. Since 2016, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CVJR), created by Executive Decree of the President in 2014 and with a three-year mandate, has developed a work plan and initiated research and consultations. Sida plans to support the CVJR through the UN Trust Fund in support of Peace and Security.

**Portfolio level**

The Swedish portfolio in this area amounted to 24,182 MSEK in 2017, and apart from slight delays the portfolio is assessed to have been implemented according to plan. There are significant synergies across support areas, as several interventions in area of support three are deemed to address root causes to conflict and thus conflict prevention through their focus on management of natural resources and climate impact. The contribution implemented by SIPRI on civil society input to address the safety and security challenges of the population experienced slight delays. Through clear synergies with the other areas of support, the media platform Studio Tamani continued to strengthen the implementation of the strategy as a whole. The support is estimated to contribute to six of the strategy's nine results, and a new support to Studio Tamani 2018-2022 is under preparation. In accordance with the operationalisation plan an earmarked contribution to the UN Trust Fund in support of Peace and Security was initiated during the year. The contribution is aligned with the strategy results and focuses on ways to strengthen peace and reconciliation mechanisms at different levels as well as on women’s influence and participation in peace- and state building. One additional intervention under this objective will be prepared during 2018. Moreover, Sida is currently recruiting a National Programme Officer to the Embassy in Bamako oriented towards Human Security and governance, in order to secure continuous capacity in this area.

**Contribution level**

A Global Land Use Plan covering the Inner Niger Delta was developed within the Wetlands programme and adopted in 2017. It will be a key tool to strengthen peace and reconciliation mechanisms at regional and local level, and appease conflicts linked to access and control over natural resources in the area.

An audience poll commissioned in 2017 by the media platform Studio Tamani showed that radio and TV are still the most common information sources for the population as a whole. Compared to a previous poll in 2014 the audience were less interested in politics and more interested in issues related to religion, security issues, and the development of the peace process. An example from the past year is the debate programme on the theme of integrated water resource management and climate change in relation to water resources. The programme included interviews with actors involved in the Swedish-funded water programme and specifically addressed how climate change affects local livelihood opportunities and the difficult situation for girls involved in artisanal gold extraction. In relation to reconciliation, the National Reconciliation Conference was covered in depth and in close cooperation with the United Nation’s radio station. Furthermore, one of the live debate programmes was devoted to the forthcoming referendum on a new constitution (which was subsequently postponed). The

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9 Insatsnummer 51130081: Studio Tamani 2015-2017
10 Insatsnummer 51130081: Studio Tamani 2015-2017, Mesure d’audience Mali, TV et radio, restitution des résultats, January 2018
11 E-mail communication with the Fondation Hirondelle National Representative, April 26, 2017
Minister of Territorial Administration and the opposition leader both accepted to meet and discuss their different positions as they considered Studio Tamani to be neutral ground, as opposed to the national channel. Afterwards they both recognised that they had never been able to discuss in such way before. During the year, frequent calls were sent out to the population to register for the elections, with messages specifically targeting women and young people.

2.2.2 Objective 2.2: Greater influence and women’s participation in peace processes and in peacebuilding and statebuilding

Development towards the strategy objective

Overall, development towards the strategy objective is assessed to be mixed. Women’s participation and influence on peace and statebuilding processes in Mali remains weak, especially at decision making level, but there are some encouraging signs such as the strong female participation at the National reconciliation conference in 2017, the formation of a Sub-commission to the Truth and reconciliation commission, (CVJR), specifically dedicated to Gender. At the end of 2017 the Technical Management Unit for the National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 started-up its activities. The Unit is supported by Sida via UN Women, and is placed at the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family. The unit is composed of four staff members, and is supported by a Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Advisor based at UN Women on secondment from FBA. This represents an important step in relation to the WPS agenda in Mali, as it will enable the Ministry to take on a leading role in the planning, preparation and coordination of WPS activities.

Portfolio level

The Swedish portfolio in this area amounted to 11.456 MSEK in 2017, and is largely assessed to have been implemented according to plan. It is mainly attributed to three contributions: SIPRI, UN Women and the UN Trust Fund in support of Peace and Security. Despite some delays, overall the portfolio is assessed to be implemented according to plan. There is close coordination with FBA and synergies with Sweden’s political efforts in the WPS field are harnessed as much as possible in order to reinforce results towards the strategy objective.

Contribution level

The SIPRI project undertook work specifically related to WPS during 2017, launching a women’s network of representatives from 36 so-called Monitoring Groups for Peace and Security. They have engaged in WPS-related issues and formulated relevant policy recommendations in this regard. The women network activities also benefitted from the active involvement of FBA and UN Women, underlining important synergies within this area of intervention. The project organized a panel discussion in March 2017 on WPS with among others women representatives from the two main signatory groups to the peace agreement. With the support of the Swedish ambassador, these women subsequently established a network for continuous dialogue and coordination between women leaders from the North, Centre and South of Mali.

Under the earmarked contribution to the UN Trust Fund in support of Peace and Security focussing on women’s influence and participation in peace- and state building, Sida is supporting a project for training 676 local women councillors in Mopti, Gao, Tombouctou, Kidal, Taoudéni and Ménaka. A few other projects are in pipeline for Swedish funding and will be finally formulated and approved during the first quarter 2018.
Swedish Support to UN Women also contributed to the training in gender of 64 members and resource persons (57 men and 7 women) of the three commissions for DDR, SSR and Integration in collaboration with MINUSMA and the Peacekeeping School of Bamako. In addition, 50 persons including all the 25 commissioners and staff of the 5 regional offices of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CVJR) in gender and in prevention of Gender-Based Violence. In addition, the UN Women assisted CVJR in setting up a complaint mechanism more adapted to women. This has enhanced the capacity of those who receive the complaints and their supervisors to listen to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, as well as their ability to identify different elements of human rights violations.

Two so-called women peace huts were constructed in Tombouctou and in Ménaka in order to strengthen women’s associations and the dialogue between women and girls affected by the conflict. This has contributed to rebuilding trust between women of different communities and encouraged them to make a commitment related to prevention of gender based violence in their respective communities.

2.3 Support 3: A better environment, limited climate impact and greater resilience to environmental impact, climate change and natural disasters

2.3.1 Objective 3.1: Improved capacity among public institutions and other actors at national and local level to contribute to environmental sustainability, increased resilience to environmental impact, climate change and natural disasters, and limited climate impact

*Development towards the strategy objective*

Overall, development towards the strategy objective is assessed as positive. Increasing incidents of intercommunity violence fuelled by competition for natural resources between pastoral and agricultural populations in the north and the centre of the country. The main reason is the complexity of the land use system in this very specific ecosystem where fisheries, forestry, agriculture and animal husbandry are often competing in accessing to natural resources instead of being complementary. This has underlined the need for environmental sustainable management of natural resources, not least in the face of climate change, and on policy level, some milestones have been achieved. In 2017 a roadmap for the implementation of Mali’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) was developed, as well as a budgeted investment plan for the NDC by the newly formed national climate council. The roadmap includes the aim to work in parallel with accreditation of three different national entities to the Green Climate Fund. A challenge going forward is for public institutions to work in a more cross-sectoral manner, as planning is still very much done along sectors. Vetting of the roadmap and the investment plan will continue in 2018. The government also adopted a new forestry policy\(^\text{12}\), integrating climate issues, gender equality and decentralization, with strong assistance from Sida. In January a government decree on the transfer of competences to the municipalities\(^\text{13}\) was adopted, paving the way for a fully decentralized forest management. Important results have been achieved throughout the year such as a draft Water law which includes the creation of basin agencies based on river basins and the polluter-pays principles.

\(^{12}\) Politique Forestière Nationale, 2017
\(^{13}\) Decret 2018-0079 P-RM DU
Portfolio level

Sida’s portfolio in this area amounted to 64,798 MSEK in 2017, and is assessed to be implemented according to plan. It mainly includes four contributions – the Mali Climate Fund, GEDEFOR Decentralized Forest Management Programme, the Joint Programme on Integrated Water Resources Management and the civil society fund Reso Climat. The portfolio remains highly relevant; both in terms of its focus on climate change adaption and natural resource management, and the way it contributes to strengthen the capacity of public institutions. It is likely to be maintained throughout the strategy period.

Contribution level

The Mali Climate Fund\textsuperscript{14} issued its first call for proposals since the adoption of its governing documents in 2017. Funding notices are expected early 2018. In January 2018 the Director General of AEDD appointed four additional AEDD experts to the technical secretariat of the fund. This together with the new Swedish financial contribution to it will strengthen the technical secretariat with the aim to have two calls for proposals per year. The new financial support comes with technical assistance by an international expert on climate funding recruited by UNDP’s multidonor trust fund office. The Mali Climate Fund allows for pooling of bilateral funds and quicker implementation of smaller projects than the GCF. Project implementation of four new Mali Climate Fund projects started in 2017, each with a budget of approximately USD 900,000, led by FAO, UNDP and UNWomen together with civil society and government partners. The projects build resilience among vulnerable people through action within the fields of fish farming, agricultural intensification, soil restoration, wood fuel and water management. The NDC roadmap includes the planned adoption of a Mali Climate Fund law in 2018, which will allow for the government of Mali to contribute financially to the fund alongside Sida and Norway.

Through the long-term support to the Mali Forestry Sector, GEDEFOR, the Government of Mali elaborated and adopted a New Forestry Policy of Mali in September 2017. The policy takes into account both private forestry, gender and community resilience to the effects of climate change, and includes an action plan costed at 660 MSEK. The government is planning to contribute to the funding of the action plan in the 2018 budgeting process. More recently, as a strategic result from the Decentralised Forest Management Programme; an administrative act has been taken by the government which decides on the transfer of competences to the local governments (municipalities) in the domain of forest management\textsuperscript{15}.

The Joint Programme on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)\textsuperscript{16} aims to improve water management at local, national and transboundary levels. During 2017, the implementation of the programme has improved and resulted in increased coordination and collaboration between key actors, including a meeting of the National Water Council, focusing on potential actions to undertake to mitigate this season’s lack of rainfall. To provide the decision makers with good data, the project has supported the National Water Directorate with material for water laboratories, 14 groundwater measurement stations and 44 rehabilitated hydrometric stations in Mali. A bulletin on the water levels is aired each week on national television. In addition the first national water quality survey with a specific focus on heavy metals, potentially related to traditional mining activities, was conducted in 2017.

\textsuperscript{14} Fonds Climat Mali, 51130066
\textsuperscript{15} Progress report GEDEFOR II, February 2018
\textsuperscript{16} Integrated Water Resource Management, 51130084
2.3.2 Objective 3.2: Increased sustainability and resilience of agriculture, with a focus on sustainable food security, productive employment with decent working conditions and sustainable use of natural resources

Development towards the strategy objective
Reforms in the agricultural sector have been sluggish, particularly concerning extension services. However, an important step was taken in 2017 with the adoption of the law on agricultural land tenure. During 2017 conditions for agriculture and food security worsened due to erratic rainfall and a relatively short rainy season. Insufficient flooding and low levels of biomass has led to early transhumance. Consequently, there is increasing strain on natural resources, and an increased risk of localised agro-pastoral conflicts.

Portfolio level
Sida’s portfolio in this area amounted to 30.382 MSEK in 2017 and is assessed to have been implemented according to plan. The portfolio includes four contributions of different character – the Wetlands Programme in the Inner Niger Delta, an ACF project on strengthened resilience of rural communities in Kita and Timbuctoo, and a Loan Guarantee within the agricultural sector benefitting women entrepreneurs. In addition, the GEDEFOR Programme on Decentralised Forest Management and the Mali Climate Fund also contributes to this objective. As part of the operationalization a contribution in the area of agro-forestry with a focus on resilience, productive employment and decent work is under preparation, with the aim to achieve strong synergies with GEDEFOR.

Contribution level
Through the various resilience capacity development activities implemented by GEDEFOR and the Wetlands Programme in 2017, human pressure has been reduced on natural resources for the benefit of vulnerable populations, in particular women groups. The activities include market gardening (fruits and vegetable production), beekeeping, poultry farming, soap and cosmetics production from Shea butter, small-credit schemes etc. The total income generated through GEDEFOR was worth 618 000 SEK\textsuperscript{17} and through the Wetlands Programme (market gardening) 147 000 SEK.\textsuperscript{18} These incomes contribute to the reduction of food insecurity and to women’s economic empowerment.

The Loan Guarantee Programme saw a significant increase in loan applications, utilization rate and quality of loan takers during the period. The number of micro, small and medium sized enterprises receiving programme support assistance rose from 2 600 at the end of year one to 12 300 at the end of year two (referring to US fiscal year). The utilization rate of the loan guarantee increased from 19 percent for the two banks to 23 percent during the same period, corresponding to an increased loan amount from 1,7 MUSD to 2,2 MUSD. The project has met or exceeded 11 of its 16 performance indicators, leading to the decision to revise the monitoring and evaluation framework in 2018. The number of women receiving direct support from the project rose from 1 600 to 7 800 during the same reference period, providing opportunities to women that they otherwise would lack and strengthening the role that women play in the Malian economy at large.

\textsuperscript{17} Progress Report GEDEFOR, February 2018
\textsuperscript{18} Progress Report PDD DIN I, January 2018
2.3.3 Objective 3.3: Increased production of and improved access to renewable energy

Development towards the strategy objective

The energy sector continues to be highly regulated, which hampers access. The energy demand increases by 10-12 percent annually and production costs are still higher than the price per kWh. The state electric company EdM is struggling to improve its operations and there is a common perception that the management of the company is very weak. The level of grid access is very low, especially outside of the main urban centres; large parts of the rural areas have limited infrastructure and accessibility; and the private sector markets for renewable energy are still at an early stage. 25.6 percent of the population has access to electricity, 50.4 percent in urban areas and 11.9 percent in rural areas. About half of the electricity is oil-based and the other half is hydropower. Solar energy is the largest renewable energy source, but so far it only contributes marginally (0.09 percent) to the total energy production in Mali. However, renewable energy sources could contribute more than today and have the advantage that they often have lower installation costs in those areas that are not covered by the national electricity grid.

Portfolio level

Sida’s portfolio in this area amounted to 7.400 MSEK in 2017 and was implemented according to plan. It includes two contributions - the REACT Challenge fund and the Mali Climate Fund. Given the low level of political will within the Malian administration to address some of the constraints to provide more and cheaper electricity, especially in rural areas, Sida intends to work in partnership with the private sector and civil society in this sector. Scoping work for a second energy intervention is underway. By the end of 2018 this objective will be fully operationalized with two major contributions with renewable energy as the main objective, as well as a few other contributions contributing in part to it.

Contribution level

Mali is one of the seven countries where Sida is creating a country funding window under the REACT challenge fund\(^19\). The inception has started and the first Mali competition launch is expected in early June 2018. This contribution is a way for Sida to contribute to renewable energy in Mali despite the above-mentioned sector challenges and will also allow Sida to work more with the private sector.

The first Mali Climate Fund project with an energy focus approached its end in 2017. The UNICEF-led initiative is supplying drinking water using solar energy in the regions of Ségou, Mopti and Timbuktu. So far 14 villages with a total of 46 935 inhabitants have gained access to clean drinking water. By the end of the project that number is expected to increase to 60 000. The implementation of the second Mali Climate Fund\(^20\) project with energy as the main objective started in 2017. The first annual report has not yet been received but the intervention will produce and disseminate 50 000 improved cooking stoves, sell more than 500 tons of “briquettes”, plant 180 000 trees, organize 9 associations of charcoal producers and improve their charcoal production by 30% without increasing deforestation.

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\(^{19}\) Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund, Renewable Energy and Adaptation to Climate Technologies (REACT): 51050106

\(^{20}\) Mali Climate Fund 51130066
3 Implications for the Continued Strategy Implementation

The strategy for Sweden’s development cooperation with Mali was adopted in June 2016 and an operationalization plan was adopted in July 2017. During 2018 Sida will continue to implement the operationalization according to plan. The portfolio in Support area 2 (Human security and Freedom from Violence), will be expanded by an additional contribution, as well as in Support area 3 with new contributions with a focus on the new areas of agriculture and renewable energy, respectively. Sida will approach political dialogue strategically as it is not possible to engage in efficient close policy dialogue in a large number of sectors at once. The new contributions are expected to have strong synergies with the current contributions, and there will be continued integration across support areas.

Despite being conducted in a complex political and security environment, it is possible to achieve positive results for the most vulnerable people, since the development cooperation is highly focused on resilience, vulnerable persons and work on a decentralized level.