

“This type of meeting gives Malians the opportunity to talk openly to each other, to be self-critical in order to find a sustainable solution for the peace that each Malian hopes for so much.”

Participant in a dialogue session,
Bamako, January 2015

The Mali Self-portrait

Since 2013, IMRAP has been conducting a Participatory Action Research process through which **Malians have identified the main challenges and opportunities for peace in their country.**

The programme engages all layers of society in **Mali's eight regions** as well as in **Malian refugee camps** in neighbouring countries.

This inclusive process has resulted in a **self-diagnosis of national scale**. Entitled *Self-portrait of Mali on obstacles to Peace*, it highlights four priorities for peace.



The Priorities for Peace

- Erosion of societal values
- Crisis of trust between the security and defence forces and the population
- Limited employment opportunities for the youth
- Weaknesses in public affairs governance

More than a study report...

- A **national consensus** crossing the societal divides
- A demonstration of the **commitment of Malians** to engage for peace
- A basis for seeking **consensual and sustainable solutions** for peace
- A critical **basis of reflection and orientation** for international actors

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AN AGENDA FOR PEACE IN MALI

The Agenda for Peace in Mali is a programme jointly implemented by the **Institut Malien de Recherche Action pour la Paix (IMRAP)** and **Interpeace** since 2013.

It aims to renew the commitment of Malians to live together in harmony through an **inclusive and participative dialogue process**. **Strengthening trust** between Malians lies at the heart of this initiative.



The **Institut Malien de Recherche Action pour la Paix (IMRAP)** is a Malian association working for peacebuilding and social cohesion in Mali through inclusive dialogue.

Since its creation in 2013, IMRAP has worked in close cooperation with

Interpeace, an international organisation that accompanies societies in the construction of sustainable peace.

Combining local expertise and international experience, this programme quickly led IMRAP to become an acknowledged peace actor in Mali.

AN INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE...

IMRAP engages Malians from all walks of life in the dialogue, from grassroots communities to the highest spheres of power, including groups that are usually

neglected or perceived as difficult to engage with.

This ensures broad **ownership** and **empowerment** for building peace. Inclusive dialogue about **common challenges** brings people closer together and creates **lasting**

relationships of trust, even between antagonistic groups.

Trust is a **major ingredient for peace over the long term in Mali**. It is encouraged by IMRAP through the following three programmatic lines :

... THAT BUILDS TRUST



Searching for sustainable solutions

IMRAP accompanies Malians in formulating and implementing **consensual and sustainable solutions to two of the identified *Priorities for peace***:

- *The evolution of societal values*
- *(Re)building trust between the security and defence forces and the population*

Large-scale consultations were conducted with the population in order to mobilize knowledge and generate consensus at all levels of society. **Steering committees** for each priority, composed of experts and prominent Malians, **accompany the development and implementation of solutions**.

(Re)building trust between the security and defence forces and the population

Maliens expressed concern that ensuring the security of the people and the territory, despite important investments in training and equipment, is not possible without the establishment of **trust and collaboration between the armed forces, the security forces and the population**.

To this end, IMRAP, with support of **its audio-visual tool**, creates **bridges of dialogue** between the population and the various bodies of defence and security – army, police, gendarmerie and national guard. The sustainability of these bridges fosters lasting trust and peace at the local and national levels.

The Mobile Dialogue Unit (MDU)

The MDU travels across Mali and to refugee camps in order to **broaden and deepen dialogue** around societal questions that are essential to peace. Using its mobile cinema, the MDU screens video excerpts of other dialogue sessions in order to trigger public debate.

In this way, the MDU sparks a **virtual dialogue** amongst the Malian people who seldom communicate with each other because of geographical, social, or cultural distance. This exercise fosters

mutual understanding and helps (re)build relationships of trust.

Through the debate it generates, the MDP also supports the search for solutions on the *Priorities for peace*.

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For more information, please contact Zoumana Fané (zoumana@imrap-mali.org) and Jean-Simon Rioux (rioux@interpeace.org)