

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

**POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPER (PRSP)  
STATUS REPORT**

**1. What has been the progress in developing the full PRSP with respect to the timetable and action plan?**

**1.1. Participation**

In July 2000 the government prepared and adopted the initial PRSP, which was then presented to the Executive Boards of the IMF and World Bank in September 2000. In this document, the government undertook to prepare the full PRSP no later than one year after the date of adoption of the initial PRSP by the IMF and World Bank Executive Boards.

In their discussions of the I-PRSP, Executive Directors made a number of comments, including on the following points:

- Participatory process: all segments of society should be represented;
- Use of HIPC resources: indication of the level and the manner in which such resources are used to benefit the priority sectors selected for the reduction of poverty;
- Medium-term framework: medium-term view of public expenditure that is consistent with a medium-term economic and financial framework;
- Governance and transparency: transparency in the budgeting process, institutional strengthening, etc.

In light of these comments and its determination to be effective in reducing poverty, the government officially launched the preparation of its full PRSP in November 2000, within the framework of a broad consultative process. The turning point in this process was the seminar held on February 1, 2001, which enabled all participants (government, civil society, technical and financial partners) to reach agreement on the practical organizational framework to be put in place to ensure the involvement of all in the process of preparing, implementing, and monitoring/assessing the full PRSP.

A number of important milestones were reached in this process:

- **March 12, 2001:** Start of the work of the thematic groups.
- **April 12, 2001:** Signature by the Prime Minister of Decree 01-175/PM-RM establishing the institutional mechanisms for preparing, monitoring, and assessing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

- **April-May 2001:** Discussions on development organized by the World Bank Institute in partnership with the Higher Institute of Training and Applied Research (ISFRA) of the University of Mali. These discussions focused mainly on the subject matter of the PRSP and were organized as conferences, debates, and video conferences with participants from government, civil society, and the academic world.
- **May-June 2001:** Regional and national seminars for civil society to provide their views on the content of the PRSP. The report of these seminars is available and was officially submitted to the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) on July 18, 2001.
- **June 2001:** Creation within the Ministry of Economy and Finance of a PRSP Technical Unit.

The entire participatory process is summarized in the attached table.

## **1.2. Poverty diagnosis**

This diagnosis is based on the results of the Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) used in the Malian poverty assessment survey (EMEP). This survey, begun in January 2001 by the Direction Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Informatique (DNSI), comprises four field visits carried out over a 12 month period. The CWIQ results enabled the authorities to analyze poverty using the "economic welfare" approach and to update the poverty index, analyze the causes of poverty, and update the poverty map.

The analysis of poverty from a monetary perspective will not take place until all the survey results become available in 2002. Targeted qualitative surveys will be carried out in 2002 to supplement the poverty analysis.

The DNSI also conducted a special qualitative survey on the cotton crisis among cotton growers. This survey elicited the opinions of cotton growers concerning the causes of the crisis, what can be done to solve it, and the production outlook.

The monitoring objectives, indicators, and methods were established based on the analysis of the thematic group "poverty and gender analysis/monitoring" and the results of the forum on the funding of research on poverty and growth.

## **2. To what extent (if any) has the timetable, road map, and/or expected completion date for the full PRSP been revised?**

To accommodate this broad and diversified process and ensure that the PRSP is of sufficient quality and serves as a unique reference document, the government revised the initial timetable (September 30, 2001).

The new completion date is November 30, 2001 with a one-month grace period to deal with any obstacles encountered in the consultation process, particularly with the institutions of the Republic (National Assembly; Economic, Social, and Cultural Council, etc.)

In any case, the government believes that the PRSP process is iterative and will be constantly improved as more relevant and up-to-date data become available and based on the relevant contribution of participants, civil society in particular.

**3. What additional steps are the authorities taking, including seeking technical assistance, to complete the full PRSP in coordination with civil society and external partners?**

In preparing the full PRSP, the PRSP technical unit received technical support from four international consultants and one Malian consultant:

- One international consultant: “sectoral policy/macroeconomic framework consistency” and “governance” components;
- One international consultant: “macroeconomic management” component;
- One international consultant: “employment/training” and “welfare” components;
- One international consultant: “priorities for growth,” “private sector,” and “competitiveness” components;
- One Malian consultant: “macroeconomic management” and “fiscal management” components.

The unit also received support from a number of technical and financial partners, particularly the medium-term expenditure management and Internet access component.

Additional technical support is expected, including the recruitment of a Malian sociologist/consultant whose assignment will be to deepen the consultation process. Technical assistance has also been requested for finalizing the document, as well as the preparation and implementation of the mechanism for monitoring and assessment.

Moreover, to ensure constant improvement of the PRSP process, the government is taking the following steps:

- Improvement of the program budget process;
- Continuation of the program to streamline the procedures for donor assistance;
- Continuation of the social dialogue, particularly through the Solidarity Pact for Growth and Development;
- Improvement of governance, especially the “anti-corruption” component;
- Fulfillment of external commitments.

Attachments: Summary table of the participatory process  
Members of civil society

**SPECIFICS OF THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS**

Dates/Periods	Type of activity	Number and capacity of participants	Results
11/10/2000	Meeting with development partners	Multilateral and bilateral: 30	Partner buy-in to the process
11/13/2000	Meeting with civil society	26 members	Decision of civil society to organize itself with a view to better fulfilling its role in the process; Civil society proposal to finance this consultative process in the amount of approximately CFAF 20 million
11/14/2000	Meeting with government	30 members	Better understanding of the PRSP and of the role to be played to obtain possible commitment
02/01/01	National seminar on the participatory process	120 participants: government (60), civil society (35), development partners (25) Association of Municipalities of Mali	Establishment of the participatory process: institutional framework proposal, proposed timetable
March 12 - June 12, 2001	Work of thematic groups	All participants responsible for each sector	Preparation of thematic reports
08/03/01	Steering Committee meeting. Agenda: adoption of working groups' terms of reference	22 participants: government: 15 Civil society: 5 partners: 2	Terms of reference adopted
04/11/01	Steering Committee meeting. Agenda: - progress of working groups ; - practical measures for moving forward	25 participants: 18 government: Civil society: 5 partners: 2	Harmonization of work methods Technical support to working groups
05/10/01	Steering Committee meeting. Agenda: - progress of working groups; - practical measures for moving forward	25 participants: government: 18 Civil society: 5 partners: 2	The groups are at different stages of progress
June 12-15, 2001	Subregional forum on the funding of research on poverty and growth	120 participants: government: 50 Civil society: 30 partners: 25	Development of research on poverty and growth; Presentation of the progress reports of the thematic groups; Experiences of subregional countries (Mauritania,

		subregional: 4 researchers: 11	Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea)
July 18, 2001	Steering Committee meeting: Agenda: 1. Adoption of the detailed plan for the full PRSP; 2. Practical measures for moving forward; 3. Official submission of the civil society report to the Minister of Economy and Finance	35 participants: government: 18 Civil society: 10 partners: 7	Adoption of a detailed plan for preparation of the full PRSP
July 31, 2001	Availability of the first version of the full PRSP		
August 6, 2001	Delivery of the first version of the full PRSP to regions, development partners, Steering Committee members, technical staff of the MEF		This initial version was prepared by a small committee aided by international consultants
August 18, 2001	Limited seminar	70 participants: Minister and advisers; technical staff of the MEF ; thematic group chairs; CCA-ONG	Critical review of the first version of the full PRSP; Principle guiding revision of the PRSP timetable; In-depth review of the document
August 27, 2001	Availability of the provisional reports of thematic groups	11 reports	Inclusion of the results of the working groups in the new version
September 1	Limited meetings of the Editorial and Steering Committees	7 committees: macroeconomic and fiscal management; Fiscal Policy; Private Sector; Financing plan and action plan; Monitoring/assessment; Banking and financial sector Synthesis	Drafting of the new version of the PRSP; Revision of the timetable Revision of the plan for preparing the PRSP
4 October 4	Availability of the revised version of the PRSP	Delivery to IMF and WB	In preparation for the joint IMF/WB mission
October 16	Meeting with the joint IMF/WB mission	35 participants	Detailed comments on the PRSP
October 18	Availability of the second revised version of the document		
October 19	Delivery of the document to the IMF, the World Bank, and all regions	30 copies	In preparation for the regional consultations set for November 1-15, 2001

## **LIST OF MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

1. Coordination Committee of NGO Actions (CCA-ONG)
2. Coordinating Secretariat of Malian NGOs (SECO-ONG)
3. Coordinators for Women's Associations and NGOs (CAFO)
4. Association of Malian Consumers (ASCOMA)
5. Mali Association for Human Rights (AMDH)
6. National Union of Malian Workers (UNTM)
7. Chamber of Commerce and Malian Industry (CCIM)
8. National Federation of Malian Employers (FNEM)
9. APCAM [Permanent Assembly of Mali's Chambers of Agriculture]
10. National Federation of Malian Artisans (FNAM)
11. Malian Association for the Unity and Advancement of Islam (AMUPI)
12. Catholic churches
13. Protestant churches
14. Childhood Foundation
15. Association of Municipalities of Mali
16. Malian Assistance Effort for Children of the Sahel (OMAES)
17. Mali Enjeu (Malian Association for the Environment and Youth)
18. Network of Economic Journalists of Mali (RJEM)
19. Jubilee 2000 Coalition
20. Initiative for Structural Adjustment Participatory Review International Network (SAPRIN/IREPAS)
21. Coordination of Youth Associations and Organizations (CAOJ)
22. National Civil Society Platform
23. National Union of Malian Journalists (UNAJOM)
24. National Federation of Parents of Students
25. Economic, Social and Cultural Council (CESC)
26. University of Mali
27. Press