

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa, Earl Gast from
the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on
Africa, Global Health and Human Rights**

“The Tuareg Revolt and Mali Coup”

June 29, 2012

Question #1: Foreign aid to Mali was in a development context before the current crisis, and as you say, has achieved success. How does USAID intend to reprogram its development funding to meet the needs of Malians now that the situation has changed?

Answer:

On April 10, 2012, the United States formally terminated assistance to the Government of Mali, consistent with the restrictions set forth in section 7008 of the Department of State, Foreign Appropriations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act for 2012. The activities that were terminated included capacity building programs for the Government of Mali Department of Health, public school construction, support for government efforts to increase agricultural production, and government capacity building to spur commercial investment. Electoral support programs and programs that are focused on life-saving, critical assistance in health and food security are under consideration for resumption as part of a case-by-case review. Other assistance to the Government of Mali was also suspended on policy grounds, though certain forms of humanitarian assistance (including food assistance) were never terminated or suspended based on available legal authorities.

USAID is prepared to assist the transitional GOM in the area of elections support to ensure transparency and fairness as well as to assist civil society to play an active role in the political process. The ability of the United States to resume full assistance will depend on a democratically elected government taking office.

Question #2: As you testified, the Administration suspended aid due to the coup. What circumstances would have to prevail for aid to Mali to be restored? Would there have to be acceptable elections first?

Answer:

As you may be aware, Section 7008 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2012 (SFOAA) states that no funds appropriated under titles III through VI of that Act can be, “obligated or expended to finance directly any assistance to the government of any country whose duly elected head of government is deposed by military coup d'état.” This restriction applies to assistance to the central, regional, and local government bodies in Mali. Therefore, we cannot restore assistance to the Government of Mali until there is a democratically elected government. Consequently, free and fair elections would be a condition precedent for reestablishing our regular development programming.

Question #3: Under what conditions would USAID consider humanitarian operations in northern Mali? What kind of obstacle does the presence of the MNLA and Ansar al-Dine pose legally since neither has been declared a Foreign Terrorist Organization at this point?

Answer:

USAID is supporting humanitarian programs in northern Mali through partnerships with international NGOs and the U.N. While the presence of armed groups in the north has limited access, humanitarian actors are working closely with local community organizations and NGOs to distribute aid. USAID-funded programs are providing cash and supplies to help vulnerable families meet basic needs, access food, and protect household assets. Additionally, USAID programs are assisting vulnerable families with performing critical water and sanitation infrastructure repairs stemming from damage or neglect due to the conflict. To appropriately target and deliver humanitarian assistance, USAID also supports the development of a database to monitor and track population movements.