

**Project Name: Operational Research Activities to Promote Jobs for Youth in Central Mali**

**Organization(s):** World Bank

**Dates of Implementation:** 2019 ongoing

**Country:** Mali

**Partner(s):** Government of Mali

**Website:** n/a

**Project Description:**

The objective of the *Operational Research Activities to Promote Jobs for Youth in Central Mali* project is to inform the design of effective support to jobs for youth to promote stabilization in Mali's conflict areas and similar FCV situations.

The project will pursue this objective by seeking insights into four key analytical questions relating to stability and economic opportunities for youth:

- i. Are the two key options for jobs support to youth in low-income FCV settings – namely labor-intensive public works (LIPW) and cash grants for income-generating activities (IGA) – effective and cost-efficient in a volatile FCV setting in terms of creating economic opportunities, but also in terms of supporting stabilization;
- ii. Does the standard approach to IGA developed for helping the most marginal households need to be modified when the goal is to improve the economic prospects of youth;
- iii. Is there a feasible and socially acceptable way of targeting benefits toward youth at risk of engaging in destabilizing activities;
- iv. Are there psycho-social support activities that effectively complement economic inclusion and reduce the risk of youth engaging in destabilizing activities.

The project will undertake a youth assessment study, develop and test a psycho-social support curriculum, and evaluate the impact of jobs support for youth in the Mopti region in central Mali. The analytical steps align with operational activities under the [JigiséméJiri social safety nets project \(P165064\)](#), and inform the design of future IDA operations.

The project will undertake three principal activities:

- Firstly, it will conduct surveys and focus group discussions to assess the economic situation of young people in the center of Mali, their attitudes and aspirations, and the security risks they face.
- Secondly, it will develop and test a curriculum for psycho-social support (PS) of beneficiaries, with the goal of complementing the effect of jobs support on economic outcomes and stability.
- Finally, it will undertake an impact evaluation of youth employment activities delivered under the JigiséméJiri to assess the impact of jobs support and psycho-social support on economic outcomes as well as on stability.

**Target Population:**

Vulnerable youth aged 15 to 25 in Mali.