Country/entity	Mali Niger
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Understanding between the Tarbanasa, Ibawen and Targaitamout communities in the Tamalet area
Date	28 Apr 2018
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local conflict Mali - Niger: Local cross-border conflicts

Tuareg Wars (1962 -)

Mali-Azawad
The nomadic Tuareg in the north of Mali maintained a long-standing revolt against a government traditionally dominated by southern politicians shortly after Mali became independent from France in 1960. The uprisings focused in and around the Azawad region, north of Timbuktu. After several outbreaks of violence during the 1980s, violence peaked with the 1990 outbreak of the Tuareg Rebellion. Following an initial defeat by the Malian Armed Forces, reparations by the government of Alpha Konare included the creation of the self-governing Kidal region. Violence in 1994 died down following peace between moderates on both sides in 1995 and a negotiated peace agreement. Violence continued due to a lack of integration by combatants, but it was not until 2011 that the situation again escalated in the aftermath of the Arab Spring and the disintegration of Libya, which resulted in a heavy inflow of small arms, and the increased involvement by Algeria. In January 2012, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) together with several other groups took full control of the region. Disputes on how to handle the situation led to a military coup against President Touré in March 2012 that, in turn, resulted in further turmoil. The MNLA declared the independence of Azawad, but soon lost control of most of the territory to radical Islamist militias including Ansar Dine. A French intervention in January 2013 paved the way for a UN mission, which was established in April of that year. In June 2015 multiple declarations culminated in a final agreement between several Azawad-affiliated groups, including MNLA, and the government of Mali to end hostilities. However, inadequate implementation of the agreement results in continual armed confrontations between pro-government militias, Azawad-affiliated groups, dissidents of Azawad-affiliated groups, ethnically oriented groups, and increasingly since 2017, radical Islamist militias.

Niger-Aïr-Azawad
In 1990 the nomadic Tuareg in northern Niger explicitly sought greater political autonomy following decades of grievances on local political exclusion. With the first armed group Aïr and Azawad Liberation Front (FLAA) to be established in 1991, fighting between 1990 to 1995 took place largely in the Air Mountains. A short-lived truce was agreed in 1994 between the Niger Government and the Tuareg umbrella organisation Coordination of Armed Resistance (CRA), later called Organisation of Armed Resistance (ORA). Another accord was signed in April 1995 in Ouagadougou with various other Tuareg groups and some Toubou, the last signing in 1998. After ten years of relative peace, Movement of Nigeriens for Justice (MNJ) reinvigorated conflicts in 2007 following little follow up by the Nigeriene government on the signed peace agreements.
Close
Tuareg Wars (1962 -)

Stage Framework/substantive - partial

Conflict nature Inter-group

Peace process Mali - Niger: local agreements in border areas

Parties	For Tarbanassa and Ibahawan Oumar Ag Mohamed For Targaitamout Jikilla Ag Wantacha
Third parties	Page 2, untitled preamble: ... representative of the Minister of State, of Interior, of Public Security, Decentralization, of Customary and Religious Affairs, assisted by the representative of the High Authority for Peace-building (HACP) and with the help of the Center For Humanitarian Dialogue. Signed: Witness organizations or institutions For the witness communities in Mali Mainy Ould Assalik For the witness communities in Niger Yahaya Assoumane The Deputy / Mayor of Abala Boubacar Oumarou The Mayor of Anderamboukane Hamad Ahmad AG Mohamad The representative of the interim Authorities of the Ménaka region Algharif AG BIGUI The representative of the High Authority for Peace-building (HACP) Mohamed Ali Mohamed (CT) The representative of the Ministry of State, of Interior, Security, Public, Decentralization, Customary and Religious Affairs Mohamed Mahamadou (CT)
Description	After a series of thefts and conflicts over water and pastoralist-related land resources, the communities agree to form a monitoring committee, to eradicate theft/looting, to jointly manage access to water sources, and to strengthen traditional local authorities.

Agreement document	ML_NE_180428_Understanding between the Tarbanasa Ibawen and Targaitamout communities in the Tamalet area_tr.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	ML_NE_180428_Understanding between the Tarbanasa, Ibawen and Targaitamout communities in the Tamalet area.pdf (opens in new tab)

Local agreement properties

Process type	Formal structured process
Rationale	This local peace process received mediation support from the Ministry of State, of Interior, of Public Security, Decentralization, of Customary and Religious Affairs, the High Authority for Peace-building (HACP), and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. The agreement refers to recommendations and commitments from previous meetings (Preamble, page 2), and a secondary source (see references) indicates that the Daoussahaq (to which the Tarbanassa and Ibhawan groups belong) signed a peace agreement about two years earlier with the Peulh pastoralist community in the Mali-Niger border area, suggesting that this is not an isolated local peace agreement.
Is there a documented link to a national peace process?	No
Link to national process: articulated rationale	The agreement was negotiated outside of the national-level peace process as it deals with local, inter-communal conflict. The parties to this agreement are not part of the national-level peace negotiation framework.
Name of Locale	Tamalet area, Anderamboukane municipality, Mali-Niger border
Nature of Locale	Region
GPS Lat/Long (DD)	15.423000, 3.021000
Participant type	Central state actor Local state actor International or transnational actor Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations Regional state actor
Mediator, facilitator or similar	Mediator or similar referred to
Mediator (references)	Mediators: Under the chairmanship of the representative of the Minister of State, of Interior, of Public Security, Decentralization, of Customary and Religious Affairs, assisted by the representative of the High Authority for Peace-building (HACP) and with the help of the Center For Humanitarian Dialogue
Type of mediator/ facilitator/similar	Central state actor International or transnational actor

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)	No specific mention.
Grievance List	Page 1, Preamble, Considering the willingness of the three parties to implement the provisions of the following commitments for a final and lasting settlement of the conflict, which has divided the three communities mentioned above, for many years, around the theft/looting of livestock and pastoral resources in the Tamalet area Page 1, Chapter 1: Causes of the conflict, Following passionate but fruitful debates, the three parties identified the following causes as being at the origin of the conflict between them: 1. In favor of the occupation of northern Mali, the communities have armed themselves, attack each other to kill their key rivals, loot and take away the goods and animals of their victims. 2. In this area, some communities seek to take control of pastoral resources while excluding other communities, 3. The distrust between the communities and the loss of the influence of religious and customary leaders means that the communities no longer consult each other over the management of their inter and intra-communal conflicts. Page 4, Section II: Access to pastoral resources (especially water sources), Article 7: Apart from theft and looting of cattle, exclusion from access to water sources is one of the major causes of conflicts in the area.

Cattle rustling/ banditry	Page 1, Preamble, Considering the willingness of the three parties to implement the provisions of the following commitments for a final and lasting settlement of the conflict, which has divided the three communities mentioned above, for many years, around the theft/looting of livestock and pastoral resources in the Tamalet area Pages 2-3, CHAPTER II: Agreements between the communities in conflict, Section I: theft / looting of Livestock, ARTICLE 1: Through this agreement and within the framework of peaceful coexistence, the three communities commit to: • Ceasing all confrontation for any reason whatsoever, • Firmly condemning acts of aggression • Pro-actively eradicating theft / looting of livestock from any party and throughout the border area (especially the Tamalet area). Page 3, CHAPTER II: Agreements between the communities in conflict, Section I: theft / looting of Livestock, Article 2: To eradicate the theft / looting of livestock (which poisons relations between populations), the three communities commit to identifying and denouncing to the authorities of Mali and Niger, thieves, and / or all those who stir up tensions between the communities. In the process of identifying and denouncing thieves, community leaders must try to avoid confusing themselves: a thief does not represent their family or their community. Page 4, CHAPTER II: Agreements between the communities in conflict, Section I: theft / looting of Livestock, Article 6: ... The mission of this committee is to: ... 3. Support communities in the search and return of animals that are stolen or lost. Page 4, Section II: Access to pastoral resources (especially water sources), Article 7: Apart from theft and looting of cattle, exclusion from access to water sources is one of the major causes of conflicts in the area.
Social cover	Page 3, CHAPTER II: Agreements between the communities in conflict, Section I: theft / looting of Livestock, Article 2: To eradicate the theft / looting of livestock (which poisons relations between populations), the three communities commit to identifying and denouncing to the authorities of Mali and Niger, thieves, and / or all those who stir up tensions between the communities. In the process of identifying and denouncing thieves, community leaders must try to avoid confusing themselves: a thief does not represent their family or their community.