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TRIAL CHAMBER II

Before: Judge María del Socorro Flores Liera, Presiding Judge
Judge Kimberly Prost
Judge Nicolas Guillou

SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

IN THE CASE OF THE PROSECUTOR v. AHMAD AL FAQI AL MAHDI

Public

Public redacted version of “Thirty-fifth update report on the updated implementation plan, with Confidential Annexes A, B, C and D”, dated 29 April 2025 (ICC-01/12-01/15-480-Conf)

Source: Trust Fund for Victims

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The Trust Fund for Victims hereby submits its Thirty-fifth Update Report following Trial Chamber VIII's decision of 4 March 2019 approving the Updated Implementation Plan ("Decision on the UIP") submitted by the Trust Fund for Victims ("TFV"),¹ and the Decision on the Request of the Trust Fund for Victims to Submit Update Reports Every Three Months.² On 29 January 2025, the TFV submitted its Thirty-fourth update report on implementation ("Thirty-fourth Update Report").³ On 11 February 2025, Trial Chamber II ("the Trial Chamber" or "the Chamber") delivered a Decision on the TFV's Thirty-second, Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth update reports on the updated implementation plan ("February 2025 Decision").⁴ In this decision, the Trial Chamber, *inter alia*, endorsed the 15 activities proposed in the Thirty-second and Thirty-third update reports on implementation and directed the TFV to provide the following information in the present update report: (i) further information as to when the remaining measures are expected to be completed; (ii) whether the TFV expects a closing ceremony or other formalities to take place after December 2025; and (iii) when the Chamber can expect to receive the final narrative and financial report pursuant to regulation 58 of the Regulations of the TFV.⁵ This information is provided in Part VI of the present report.
2. The present report covers the period from 30 January 2025 to 29 April 2025 and is structured as follows: the TFV reports first, on individual reparations (Part III); second, on the implementation of collective reparations (Part IV), third, on supportive activities conducted during the reporting period (Part V), and finally, the TFV includes information that has been requested by the Trial Chamber in February 2025 Decision (Part VI).
3. In the confidential Annex A to this report, [REDACTED] has been included for information of the Trial Chamber.

II. CLASSIFICATION OF THE PRESENT SUBMISSION

4. Pursuant to regulation 23 *bis* (1) of the Regulations of the Court, the TFV has classified this report and its annexes as confidential, as they contain sensitive information related to the

¹ Decision on the Updated Implementation Plan from the Trust Fund for Victims, 4 March 2019, ICC-01/12-01/15-324-Conf ("Decision on the UIP"). A public redacted version of this filing is available at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CourtRecords/0902ebd1803ebfb6.pdf>.

² Decision on the Request of the Trust Fund for Victims to Submit Update Reports Every Three Months, 17 February 2021, ICC-01/12-01/15-380, disposition.

³ Thirty-fourth update report on the updated implementation plan, with confidential, *ex parte*, Annex 1, available to the Trust Fund for Victims only, 29 January 2025, ICC-01/12-01/15-477 ("Thirty-fourth Update Report").

⁴ Decision on the TFV's Thirty-second, Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth update reports on the updated implementation plan, 11 February 2025, ICC-01/12-01/15-479.

⁵ *Ibid*, para. 8.

current security situation in Mali as well as to the ongoing implementation of the programme, the public disclosure of which could compromise its proper and secure continuation.

III. INDIVIDUAL REPARATIONS

5. As a result of the process of awarding individual reparations in the present case, a total of 1,691 beneficiaries were found eligible for reparations and a total of 1,687 beneficiaries received individual reparations awards, while four beneficiaries have not been able to be located until now and therefore paid.⁶ The funds to guarantee payment of their awards have been set aside and the attempts to locate them have been ongoing without success throughout the last three reporting periods, including the current one.⁷

IV. COLLECTIVE REPARATIONS

6. The collective reparations ordered by the Trial Chamber for the benefit of the community of Timbuktu are organised around three modalities: (i) collective reparations for the moral harm suffered; (ii) collective reparations for the indirect economic harm suffered; and (iii) collective reparations in the form of a mechanism for the protection and maintenance of the Protected Buildings.

7. During the current reporting period, the execution and consolidation of various reparations measures continued. The primary activities during this reporting period focused on starting the implementation of the fifteen additional measures, endorsed in the February 2025 Decision. The start of the implementation was made possible upon extension of the TFV's implementing partners' contracts and allocation of additional funds to them.⁸ This process was facilitated by the Registry, particularly the Procurement Unit and the Registry's Legal Office. In this context, key milestones of this reporting period were the validation of the memorial scale model (commemoration project), the selection and funding of initiatives led by organisations in Timbuktu (economic resilience project), and the establishment of the Protected Buildings Maintenance Fund (heritage restoration project).

8. This reporting period was also marked by the dissolution of the Municipal Council of Timbuktu, as announced by the Malian Council of Ministers on 19 February 2025. The Municipal Council as a main decision-making body of the municipality of Timbuktu had been

⁶ See Thirty-fourth Update Report, paras 4 and 7.

⁷ Thirty-second update report on the updated implementation plan, including report on finalisation of individual reparations, 29 July 2024, ICC-01/12-01/15-476 ("Thirty-second Update Report"), para. 40 (A public redacted version of this filing is available at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/court-record/icc-01/12-01/15-476-red>); Thirty-third update report on the updated implementation plan, 29 October 2024, [ICC-01/12-01/15-477](https://www.icc-cpi.int/court-record/icc-01/12-01/15-477), ("Thirty-third Update Report"), para. 16; Thirty-fourth Update Report, para. 4.

⁸ See Thirty-second Update Report, paras 110-126; Thirty-third Update Report, paras 93-101.

a key actor in the implementation of collective reparations, particularly through overseeing the reparations measures benefitting the community of Timbuktu in line with the Reparations Order. Notably, the Municipal Council and/or the mayor had been involved in establishing the commemoration committee, in participating in the selection of local initiatives led by grassroots organisations in Timbuktu, and in officially designating a public space for the construction of the Louha memorial. While the dissolution was caused by reasons unrelated to the reparations programme, it had impacted the programme in generating a vacuum of recognised authorities to engage in key decision-making processes and in providing legitimacy to the activities.

9. Following the dissolution, the Secretary General of the *Commune Urbaine de Tombouctou* was appointed on 20 February 2025 by the *Prefet du Cercle* of Timbuktu (Decision No. 2025-002/P-CT) to manage day-to-day operations until the formation of the Municipal Council has completed. The TFV has engaged with the authority currently in charge to ensure the continuation of cooperative efforts critical to the successful implementation of reparations. During its mission in Timbuktu, following an initial commitment made via telephone, the TFV held a meeting with the Secretary General in Timbuktu, where he affirmed his commitment to ongoing collaboration. This commitment was also reiterated by the Governor of the Timbuktu region. As reported throughout the implementation, involvement of the local authorities is essential to access Timbuktu, ensure the necessary knowledge and support of the authorities and sustainability of the program and its impacts.

A. COLLECTIVE REPARATIONS FOR MORAL HARM SUFFERED BY THE TIMBUKTU COMMUNITY

10. Collective reparations for moral harm consist of several measures, the general purpose of which is to alleviate the moral suffering endured by the community of Timbuktu due to the destruction of the Protected Buildings. Collective reparations for moral harm are implemented by CFOGRAD, a Timbuktu-based organisation selected by the TFV as implementing partner.

11. Activities described in the present sub-section concern, on the one hand, to memorialisation activities, including (1) exchanges and a discussion meeting with the Kabara neighbourhood council, young people and women on the construction of a memorial in Kabara, (2) rehabilitation work in respect to the Timbuktu Municipal Museum, (3) exchanges and discussion workshop with tourist guides, hoteliers and restaurateurs, (4) a consultation workshop for members of the Timbuktu community on designing the exhibition at the Timbuktu Municipal Museum, (5) efforts towards ensuring the sustainability of the Louha monument. On the other hand, other activities described in the present sub-section relate to

psychological support in the form of (6) community-based therapy in Timbuktu, the implementation of which continued, as in previous reporting periods, throughout this reporting period.⁹ All these activities pertain to projects that were found, in the February 2025 Decision, to be within the scope of the Reparations Order and the Decision on the UIP, and thus endorsed by the Trial Chamber.¹⁰

1. Memorialisation

a. Background

12. In accordance with the Trial Chamber's Decision on the UIP, the TFV implements a memorialisation measure whose purpose is, in application of the principle of restorative agency, to empower the community to debate and discuss whether memorialisation measures would adequately alleviate the moral harm suffered, and if so, to determine, design and implement the types of measures that would be appropriate.¹¹ The locally-driven memorialisation process set up by the TFV led to the selection of a memorialisation measure composed of: (i) the erection of a memorialisation monument, or memorial, in the form of a Walaha, entitled "Louha" to be erected on the Diamane Hana square;¹² and (ii) the construction of an additional room in the Municipal Museum of Timbuktu. Both parts of this measure have been already delivered and inaugurated.¹³

13. Additionally, in June 2024, additional measures to address the moral harm were identified by the communities and the TFV, including (i) the need for a related memorialisation measure for Kabara to mitigate the perceived feeling of exclusion of the population of Kabara in the context of the reparations implemented in this case, (ii) the strengthening of the exhibition on the mausoleum in the newly built exhibition room, (iii) dedicated activities with the touristic guides, and (iv) efforts to rehabilitate the Timbuktu museum.

b. Progress made during the reporting period

1) Memorial in Kabara

14. During the reporting period, CFOGRAD has continued its engagement with the population of Kabara about the memorialisation measure through the participatory and

⁹ February 2025 Decision, paras 4, 7.

¹⁰ February 2025 Decision, paras 4, 7.

¹¹ Decision on the UIP, paras 97 and 111. See also the Updated Draft Implementation plan, 2 November 2018, [ICC-01/12-01/15-291-Conf-Exp](#), paras 160-166.

¹² See Thirty-third Update Report, paras 16-22.

¹³ See Thirty-fourth Update Report, paras 14-26.

inclusive approach that produced satisfactory results and ownership of the population for the Louha monument and the additional room in the Municipal Museum of Timbuktu.

15. Three community meetings were held in Kabara with members of the neighbourhood council, representatives of the neighbourhood development committees, women's representatives and Kabara youth. The meetings took place at the Kabara district chief's home on 12 and 22 February and 8 March 2025 respectively. A total of 32 people, including eight women and 24 men, took part in these meetings. The aim of these meetings was, firstly, to validate with the community the proposal to build a monument at Kabara, and, secondly, to discuss the location of this memorial, accompanied by the installation of a water tower, taking into account specific criteria.

16. The first two meetings served to reinforce dialogue among the various stakeholders involved in the process and to collect the views and suggestions of representatives of the Kabara community regarding the construction of a memorial. Through open, inclusive, and constructive discussions, participants reached a consensus on a proposed location for the memorial which is located at the crossroad of Kabara Karioubé. As the identified location was already occupied by the Kabara Sport Centre since 2021, a third meeting was held, attended by representatives of the Sports Centre. This meeting resulted in the official authorisation, dated 25 February 2025, granted by the representative of the urban municipality, the head of the neighbourhood, and the director of the Kabara Sports Centre, permitting the memorial to be hosted on this site.

17. Through ongoing dialogue, a scale model of the memorial was designed and presented to the community of Timbuktu. A revised version of the model was developed to incorporate the feedback provided by the population of Kabara. Additional consultations are planned for the next reporting period at the municipal committee level to gather further input and ensure that the design remains connected to the primary memorial, the Louha monument. Construction will commence promptly upon the community's approval.

18. In addition, plans were made to drill a borehole for water supply to maintain the memorial and provide the community with a reliable water source for drinking and ritual sacrifices in honour of the Saints. Authorisation for the borehole drilling was granted to CFOGRAD on 27 February 2025 by the Governor of the Region of Timbuktu (decision no 2025-0084/GRT-CAB).

2) Rehabilitation work on the main building of the Timbuktu Municipal Museum (visit and technical acceptance)

19. In addition to the room built at the Timbuktu Municipal Museum to house an exhibition dedicated to the mausolea, which had been handed over to the community of Timbuktu in May 2024,¹⁴ the community of Timbuktu prioritised – as part of the additional measures to be implemented as endorsed by the Trial Chamber – the rehabilitation of the Timbuktu Municipal Museum which had exhibited significant signs of advanced deterioration. This choice was made in order to harmonise the appearance of the entire Municipal Museum after the addition of the newly built additional room.

20. The work carried out during this rehabilitation mainly concerns: (i) treating cracks and filling holes; (ii) restoring the roof's baked bricks, (iii) restoration of the powder-coating on the roasted-wood ceiling, (iv) various carpentry works, including refurbishment of the museum's main entrance door and (v) diverse electrical, plumbing and painting works.

21. The construction phase commenced on 27 January 2025. Two site visits were conducted by a multidisciplinary team, which included three members of the communal commemoration committee, the mayor of the urban commune, the representative of the head of the cultural mission, the regional Director of Culture and Urban Planning, and the manager of the Municipal Museum. The first visit took place on 6 February 2025, followed by a second visit for the technical reception on 21 March 2025, attended also by a representative from the TFV. A total of 38 participants, including 8 women and 30 men, were present during these visits. The work was assessed for compliance with current standards, in line with the tasks outlined during the study and evaluation phase of the rehabilitation of the historic building. During the second visit, CFOGRAD and TFV proceeded to the official technical reception of the works by the officials of Timbuktu including the Director of the Museum.

22. The implementation of this measure produced numerous benefits for the Museum. It has attracted the interest of the region's political and administrative authorities. This led to: (i) a closer relationship between the Municipal Museum and its supervisory authority, the Timbuktu Town Hall, through its commitment to regularize the Museum's deed of creation; (ii) the participation and involvement of the Town Hall's representative in statutory meetings; (iii) the Timbuktu Town Hall's commitment to relaunching Timbuktu's cultural twinning activities with other towns in countries friendly to Mali.

3) Economic measures for the tourist guides, hoteliers and restaurateurs

23. As part of the additional measures, the community wished to have a reparation measure dedicated to the tourist guides, hoteliers and restaurateurs which are socio-economic groups

¹⁴ See, e.g., Thirty-third Update Report, para. 18.

that have been particularly affected by the destruction of the Protected Buildings and the ensuing lack of tourism, but who could not be beneficiaries of individual reparations awards. The three professions were grouped, considering their goals and roles are intrinsically linked. They usually closely collaborate with each other in a mutually beneficial and interdependent manner.

24. To further design this measure, and following the same consultative and participative approach, CFOGRAD organised on 10 March 2025 a workshop with the Timbuktu Coordination of Tourist Guides, Hoteliers, and Restaurant Owners. The workshop was attended by 11 participants, including 4 women and 7 men, all of whom represented key stakeholder groups within the tourism and hospitality industry.

25. The primary objectives of the meeting were threefold: (i) to examine the long-term negative consequences of the *Al Mahdi* case on the three affected sectors; (ii) to foster an exchange of views on the current socio-economic conditions and challenges faced by tourist guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs; and (iii) to identify a collaborative, unifying project that could benefit all three sectors, ensuring the collective advancement of the groups involved.

26. Given the ongoing decline in tourism and the security concerns in the region, investing in the tourism sector would not generate successes and incomes. Therefore, the group reached a consensus to pursue a joint initiative focused on the production and sale of poultry.

27. At the end of the workshop, the three professional groups expressed their satisfaction for being considered in the context of the reparations programme.

4) Design of the exhibition at the Timbuktu Municipal Museum

28. As part of the additional measures, the community chose to design an exhibition about the Protected Buildings to be hosted permanently at the Timbuktu museum. The choice of the pieces that will form part of the exhibition is a delicate task that needs to take into consideration both the audience and the available space at the museum.

29. A consultative workshop was organised to gather concrete, objective and feasible proposals to improve the exhibition, with the aim of constituting a living memory linked to the destruction of the Protected Buildings. The workshop was held on 17 March 2025 in Timbuktu, and was attended by 29 individuals, including nine women. Participants included representatives of the neighbourhood development committees, and women and young people from the eight neighbourhoods in the urban district of Timbuktu.

30. Participants unanimously agreed that the museum has low numbers of visitors, particularly among the younger members of the Timbuktu community. The participants made

a number of contributions finetuning the scope and audience of the exhibition as summarised in the below table:

Objectives	Actions	Audience
Commemorating/organising a trade fair	Organisation of an exhibition of objects relating to the destruction of the mausoleums	Entire community of Timbuktu
Creating a website for visitors	Creation of a website for virtual tours	International and national communities
Organising site visits	Organising visits to local history sites	Teachers, pupils, students, researchers
Showing films and personal testimonies	Screening of films showing the destruction of the mausoleums, Mr Al Mahdi's trial and the testimonies of the victims	Timbuktu community, in particular the younger generation
Building the capacity of museum managers	Capacity-building for Municipal Museum managers	Museum staff

31. These recommendations will be presented to the Research and Media Selection Commission set up by the municipal committee on 13 March 2024 for evaluation and analysis before any decision is taken.

5) Sustainability of the Louha memorial

32. As previously reported, on 8 May 2024, the construction of the Louha was completed and the monument was inaugurated on 3 October 2024. The memorial was handed over to the municipality through an agreement signed on the same day by CFOGRAD, the commemorative municipal committee and the Town Hall of Timbuktu.

33. To further clarify the terms and conditions for the management and maintenance of the monument, a convention has been drafted and was mutually agreed upon by CFOGRAD and the municipality. As a consequence to the dissolution of the Municipal Council in February 2025, discussions were stopped before being resumed with the Secretary General of the Town Hall with no concrete results for the time being. The issue will be put on the agenda of the next steering committee set up by the Minister of Crafts, Culture, Hotel Industry and Tourism of Mali.

34. In the interim, CFOGRAD oversees the maintenance of the monument, specifically the upkeep and watering of the lawn, while awaiting formal arrangements from the municipality.

2. Psychological support

35. The TFV has been delivering mental health and psychological support to the members of the Timbuktu community via community-based therapy in partnership with CFOGRAD.¹⁵

36. In order to ensure the social and institutional embedding of this approach in the city of Timbuktu, CFOGRAD has requested the support of community relays, *i.e.* 8 women and 8 men, and the local department for the Promotion of Women, Children and Families.

37. During the reporting period, **eight rounds** of community therapy were organised in the town of Timbuktu gathering **184** persons (143 women and 41 men). These community therapy rounds were held in the 8 neighbourhoods of Timbuktu (1 in Abaradjou, 1 in Badjindé, 2 in Bellafarandi, 2 in Hamabangou, 1 in Kabara and 1 in Sankoré). The various themes addressed included: flooding of neighbourhoods and villages, loss of a loved one, chronic illness, physical and moral abuse caused by jihadist movements, lack of jobs for young people, sadness over the phenomenon of married women committing adultery in exchange for material goods, recurrent crises among teenage girls and lack of sleep. The rounds intend to address the psychological harm resulting from the crime.

38. Further rounds of community therapy are scheduled in the next reporting period.

B. COLLECTIVE REPARATIONS FOR ECONOMIC HARM SUFFERED BY THE TIMBUKTU COMMUNITY

39. Collective reparations for economic harm are delivered through a mechanism referred to as the Economic Resilience Facility (“ERF”). The ERF aims at addressing the indirect economic harm caused by the crimes to the community of Timbuktu. The ERF is structured around two components:¹⁶ (i) a Microproject Support Fund that will support a minimum of 46 initiatives carried out by local grassroot organisations based in Timbuktu and Bamako for a maximum amount of XOF 6,500,000 (equivalent of 9,909.19 EUR)¹⁷ selected following an local, inclusive and open process; and (ii) the provision of support to one or more projects conducted by the municipality of Timbuktu, designed to complement the other collective reparations measures implemented by the TFV together with its implementing partners CFOGRAD and UNESCO, to enhance the reparative effect of the programme. The collective reparations for economic harm are implemented by TFV’s partner CIDEAL, an organisation that has, among other locations, a base in Timbuktu.

¹⁵ February 2025 Decision, para. 20.

¹⁶ This structure is the product of the lengthy participatory and inclusive process previously reported, that led to defining the adequate measures and make sure they are endorsed by the community.

¹⁷ Exchange rate applicable on the day of the last report, 29 January 2025, using <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

40. As part of the reallocation of the balance of individual reparations envelope, the community has agreed to increase the number of local initiatives to be supported from 42 to 66 as well as the amount allocated to the macro projects.¹⁸ This measure was found, in the February 2025 Decision, to be within the scope of the Reparation Order and the Decision on the UIP, and thus endorsed by the Trial Chamber.¹⁹

1. Component 1: implementation of initiatives carried by grassroots organisations

41. Numerous activities have been conducted during the reporting period to continue the implementation of the first component of the ERF. Considering that there are currently 73 initiatives supported thorough the ERF, which require accompaniment and technical support, a staggered launch approach has been taken prioritising Timbuktu-based initiatives, followed by those based in Bamako.

a. Implementation of the initial 42 initiatives in Timbuktu

42. Forty-two Timbuktu-based initiatives were selected in 2024. Support to the local organisations were provided on a progressive basis. 30 organisations received a first instalment of 60% of the total funding. During this reporting period, monitoring of the projects and verification of accounting documents was carried out by CIDEAL to confirm the use of the first instalment. The workload involved in verifying use of resources and processing payments is considerable, and therefore delayed the payment of the second instalment. Representatives of the organisations in this first batch of 30 organisations expressed concern over delays in receiving their second instalment. The TFV acknowledged their concerns and worked with CIDEAL to accelerate the payment process.

43. At the end of these verifications, CIDEAL proceeded with the payment of the second and last instalment of 40% to all of these 30 organisations during the reporting period. During this period, 71 055 940 XOF have been paid to the 30 organisations. In total, the 30 organisations have received 177 639 850 XOF.

44. A second batch of 12 organisations received the first instalment during the reporting period. A total of 42 734 460 XOF was paid to the 12 organisations. Accordingly, all of the initial 42 projects are ongoing.

45. During the reporting period, in addition to the continued monitoring of the local projects, the TFV met in March 2025 with the organisations carrying out three initiatives in Badjindé, Abaradjou and Bellafarandi. During these exchanges, satisfaction was expressed and

¹⁸ See Thirty-second Update Report, para. 123.

¹⁹ February 2025 Decision, paras 4, fn 9 and 7.

discussions were held about the need to accelerate the disbursements, as reported above. The TFV took note of the community approach to each of the projects and the commitment of the organisations carrying out the selected initiatives to participate in activities.

b. Consolidation and validation of the additional 18 initiatives in Timbuktu

46. As part of the additional measures endorsed by the Trial Chamber, the number of initiatives to be supported was increased by 18 additional projects, therefore bringing the total amount of supported initiatives in Timbuktu to 60.

47. On 22 March 2025, CIDEAL held a meeting with the communal committee and 18 grassroots organisations to inform them about the potential support to their proposals. The session provided harmonised information tailored to both the beneficiary organisations and the governance selection body.

48. In accordance with the process pursued for the 42 initial organisations, 18 proposals were selected by the municipal committee as previously reported. Thereupon, CIDEAL worked with the selected organisations to enhance the quality of their proposals and ensure they meet the necessary criteria for approval. As a result, from 24 February to 7 March 2025, CIDEAL collaborated with technical service agents from sectors such as sanitation and cultural affairs to review and refine the proposals relating to the following four sectors: 11 in the productive sector, five in heritage preservation, one in environmental sustainability, and one in social cohesion.

49. The revisions focused on incorporating feedback from the TFV to address areas for improvement, such as refining project objectives, detailing expected results, adjusting timelines, specifying equipment needs, and ensuring clarity in roles and responsibilities. Gender considerations were also integrated, and the proposals were aligned with the available budget. As a result, the 18 revised proposals were validated by CIDEAL and the TFV.

50. From 25 to 31 March 2025, contracts were signed by CIDEAL with each of the 18 organisations and co-signed by the representative of the Timbuktu Town Hall. The first instalments were issued by the close of the reporting period.

c. Selection of Bamako-based initiatives

51. Pursuant to the Reparations Order and Decision on the UIP, the same measures as in Timbuktu must be undertaken in Bamako.²⁰ As previously reported, a selection process was launched in Bamako leading to the mapping of 19 organisations, from which 13 were eventually

²⁰ Thirty-second Update Report, para. 74.

eligible. These organisations, out of which 11 were formally associated and two informally associated, benefitted from training on how to set up projects in January 2025 and submitted their proposals by 7 February 2025. Training of the selection committee was also organised during the previous reporting period.

52. From 13 to 15 March 2025, the Bamako selection committee composed of nine members reviewed the 13 projects using the established scoring grid and selected six initiatives relating to training in manuscript conservation, dairy product manufacturing, wheat processing, broiler production and operation of cab and delivery motorcycles. Initiatives will be carried out in different neighbourhoods of Bamako, namely Baco Djicorini, Yirimadjo, faladje, Baco Djicoroni, Faladié Est, Kalabougou, Kalaban Coura and ACI.

53. Following the TFV's review and validation of the proposals, CIDEAL worked on the contracting phase and the first instalment is scheduled to take place by 29 April 2025.

2. Component 2: macro projects in partnership with the Timbuktu Municipality

54. Concerning the second component of the ERF, which refers to the provision of support to at least two projects conducted by the municipality of Timbuktu, designed to complement the other collective reparations measures, the TFV previously reported that, following the identification of needs in terms of projects by the members of the committee in consultation with the members of the Municipal Council, with the support of agents from the government's technical services, on 2 February 2024, a list of six proposed projects was drawn up, all chosen based on the municipality's socio-economic development plan.²¹

55. In the reporting period, the urban community of Timbuktu prepared a technical file for each of these proposals. CIDEAL provided the municipality with technical support leading to the consolidation of three proposals: (i) development of the area around the cemeteries (next to the Louha memorial), which are subject to uncontrolled occupation; (ii) sanitation into the different sectors of Timbuktu; and (iii) treatment of domestic wastewater on the eastern side of the city of Timbuktu.

56. In mid-February, as CIDEAL and Town Hall were on the verge of signing the first project agreement, the Council of Ministers' announcement to dissolve the Municipal Council of Timbuktu unexpectedly hindered the process. Accordingly, the TFV and CIDEAL agreed to postpone the signature and to monitor the governance situation at the Town Hall.

²¹ The six projects are: (i) drilling of a well in Haribono; (ii) the rehabilitation and the construction of sewage tanks in Sarakeina; (iii) the planting of trees in other cemeteries; (iv) the organisations of "hygiene days" with women organisations (v) the drilling of a well in Tillimaze; and (vi) the drilling of a well in the peace garden.

57. During its March 2025 mission, the TFV exchanged views with the relevant authorities about the changes at the municipality. The Governor of the Timbuktu region assured the TFV and the Town Hall's supervisory team of their support in carrying out these projects transparently and efficiently. At the end of April 2025, and based on the guarantees given by the authorities, the TFV and CIDEAL agreed to move forward with a first project, namely the renovation of the main facade of the Idje Thina Elwafi and Diamane Hanane cemeteries located in the close vicinity of the Louha monument in Timbuktu. The contract with the municipality was signed on 14 April 2025 for a total amount of XOF 24 613 250 (equivalent of 37,522.658 EUR).²² The first instalment was initiated on 19 April 2025 for a total amount of XOF 17 229 275 (equivalent of 26,265.86 EUR).²³

58. The TFV and CIDEAL are closely monitoring the implementation and will make a decision regarding the signing of the second macro project in due course.

C. PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PROTECTED BUILDINGS

59. Reparations in the form of protection and maintenance of the Protected Buildings are executed in partnership with UNESCO and consist of a series of measures, namely: (i) capacity-strengthening of the masons corporation; (ii) reconstruction of the Al Arawani mausoleum; (iii) capacity strengthening of the Cultural Mission;²⁴ (iv) planting of trees and hedges to strengthen the protection of mausoleums from environmental pressure; (v) lightning improvements around certain Protected Buildings which have already been completed; (vi) reconstruction of the walls of certain cemeteries; and (vii) the set-up of a maintenance fund for the Protected Buildings. The three first measures and the sixth one were completed in the penultimate reporting period, while the fourth and the fifth were in general finalised in the previous reporting period. Minor additional work has been pursued in relation to the fifth measure throughout the reporting period, as detailed further below (see sub-part 2 below). The operationalisation of the seventh measure is ongoing, with significant advancements during the reporting period, as also detailed further below (see sub-part 3 below).

60. Other efforts conducted in the reporting period (see sub-part 1 below) pertain to additional measures which were found, in the Decision on the TFV's Thirty-second, Thirty-

²² Exchange rate applicable on the day of the present report, 29 April 2025, using <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ Decision on the TFV's twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth update reports on the updated implementation plan, 25 August 2023, ICC-01/12-01/15-466-Conf ("Decision of 25 August 2023"), para. 14 (A public redacted version of this decision is available at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CourtRecords/0902ebd18071ded0.pdf>) ; February 2025 Decision, paras 4, fn 9 and 7.

third and Thirty-fourth update reports on the updated implementation plan, to be within the scope of the Reparation Order and the Decision on the UIP, and thus endorsed by the Trial Chamber.²⁵

1. Planting of trees and hedges to strengthen the protection of mausoleums from environmental pressure

61. This measure concerns the planting of trees and hedges around the four mausoleums of Sidi Mahamoud Ben Omar Mohamed Acquit, Trois Saints, Alpha Moya, and Cheikh Sidi El Mokhtar Ben Sidi Mouhammad Al Kabir Al Kounti. Considering that works are being carried out on the walls of the Sidi Mahamoud and Cheikh Sidi El Mokhtar Ben Sidi Mouhammad Al Kabir Al Kounti mausolea, the planting of trees was organised to be carried out in two stages. The work related to the planting trees has been already previously completed with the staking, installation of posts and fixing of barbed wire, the installation of water supplies, and a series of other improvements. The technical handover took place during the TFV's missions to Timbuktu on respectively 4 October 2024²⁶ and in December 2024.

62. During the reporting period, UNESCO continued to monitor the maintenance of planted areas and engaged in ongoing community consultations regarding the planned transfer of responsibility for the management of tree and hedge plantations, as well as the solar-powered streetlights installed around protected heritage sites. In March 2025, visits to the sites enabled the TFV and UNESCO to assess the condition of the planted walls, trees and hedges, and to engage with the janitors, the [REDACTED] company and the communities about the management of these facilities.

63. Several challenges were observed during this period, some of which have been recurrent since the start of the project, such as the illegal occupation of cemetery surroundings by shopkeepers, insalubrity and the divagation of animals that damage tree seedlings. Other new difficulties were encountered during the implementation phase, such as the unexpected low flow of water during the day and the inadequacy of connections to facilitate watering, both of which directly affects the watering of the plants, the lack of punctuality of the janitors on their shifts, particularly those of the Trois Saints and Sidi Mahmoud cemeteries resulting in delays, and the lack of financial resources to meet these needs.

64. Difficulties related to optimal watering have resulted in the loss of around 100 plants on the west side of the Trois Saints cemetery and around 60 plants at the Sidi Mahamoud cemetery

²⁵ February 2025 Decision, paras 4, fn 9 and 7.

²⁶ See Thirty-third Update Report, para. 61.

between December 2024 and March 2025. Arrangements will be made to replace the dead trees and hedges after the hot season.

65. The following mitigation measures have been identified: (i) informing and sensitising stakeholders, including the administrative and political authorities, with a view to taking measures to avoid occupants in the immediate vicinity of the two cemeteries; (ii) temporarily connecting the water tower in the Abaradjou district to supply the Sidi Mahamoud cemetery, and submitting a rider (which is part of the additionally endorsed activities) for the construction of two water towers for two cemeteries; (iii) recruiting a new janitor and raising awareness; (iv) raising awareness among stakeholders with a view to mobilising funds for garbage removal, wastewater management and the acquisition of additional equipment.

66. During the TFCV and UNESCO's joint mission of March 2025, meetings were organised with the communities of Abaradjou on 25 March 2025 and Sankoré on 28 March 2025 respectively to discuss the management transfer process. It was decided that the monitoring and maintenance of these sites will be carried out by the neighbourhood development committees of Djingareyber (for the Trois Saints cemetery), Sareikeina (for the Apha Moya cemetery), Abaradjou (for the Sidi Mahamoud cemetery) and Sankoré (for the Cheick Sidi El Moctar El Kounti cemetery).

2. Lighting improvement

67. In accordance with the Trial Chamber's endorsement²⁷ of the TFCV's proposal to expand the scope of the lighting-improvement measure to include four additional Protected Buildings,²⁸ on 22 December 2024, works were completed with a total of 33 streetlights and 14 solar floodlights installed on 34 masts/poles in six sites including four cemeteries (Alpha Moya, Sidi Mahamoud, Cheick Sidi El Moctar Al Kounti, and Trois Saints) and two mosques (Djingareyber and Sidi Yahia). Following this, in December 2024, UNESCO trained a team of 4 electricians and a mason designated by the community of Timbuktu to ensure the maintenance of the installed solar streetlamps. This training aimed at setting up a transfer of skills at the end of the company's maintenance contract, which ends in December 2025.

68. Technical support to the communities in the monitoring and maintenance of the installations through this team continued in the reporting period.

²⁷ Decision of 25 August 2023, para. 23.

²⁸ The Protected Buildings in question are three mausoleums of the Three Saints Cemetery (the Cheikh Mouhamad El Mikki mausoleum, the Cheikh Abdoul Kassim Attouaty mausoleum and the Cheikh Sidi Ahmed Ben Amar Arragadi mausoleum) and the Alpha Moya mausoleum.

3. Maintenance fund for the Protected Buildings

69. As approved in the Decision on the UIP,²⁹ the maintenance fund for Protected Buildings aims at allowing preventive maintenance of the Protected Buildings, preserving their conservation status, minimizing deterioration risks, and fostering community ownership of their upkeep. By doing so, it also helps perpetuate a living tradition associated with the maintenance of Protected Buildings.

70. During the latest reporting period, the TFV and its implementing partner UNESCO continued to support this process in collaboration with local stakeholders. Their efforts were primarily focused on advancing community consultations and providing technical assistance for the establishment of a management structure for the maintenance fund for the Protected Buildings. Through sustained engagement led by the Cultural Mission, this support culminated in the formal creation of the Association of Custodians of Mausoleums and Mosques of Timbuktu, officially registered on 31 December 2024 (No. 072/P-C.T 2024). The association is chaired by the head of the Alpha Moya mausoleum.

71. During the reporting period, UNESCO and the TFV, in collaboration with the Cultural Mission, held two consultative meetings with representatives of stakeholders responsible for Protected Buildings, including the Association of Custodians of Mausoleums and Mosques and Timbuktu Heritage (*Tombouctou patrimoine*).

72. The first meeting, held on 21 March 2025 at the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu, was chaired by the Head of the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu, and brought together members of the Association of Custodians of Mausoleums and Mosques, the President of the Timbuktu Heritage Association, a representative of CFOGRAD. The meeting was an opportunity for the Association of Custodians of Mausoleums and Mosques and Timbuktu Heritage and UNESCO to present their respective action plan proposals on measures that could be taken into account within the framework of the maintenance fund.

73. The shortcomings identified in the action plan proposed by the association included: (i) the non-representation of women and the lack of recognition of their role in the heritage maintenance process; (ii) the lack of information and awareness-raising measures on the maintenance of Protected Buildings; (iii) the inadequacy of the budget to cover practical and management needs; (iv) the lack of an adequate budget for the maintenance of the buildings; and (v) the lack of an effective management plan.

²⁹ Decision on the UIP, paras 66, 78.

74. At the second meeting, held on 27 March 2025, the participants agreed on mitigation measures to be integrated into the implementation of this maintenance fund, notably the training of executive board members in project management and the drafting of calls for projects with a view to sustainability, and the integration of women in building maintenance and their contribution to awareness-raising measures through neighbourhood associations.

75. In order to mitigate potential risks and prevent arising challenges, UNESCO increased the frequency of stakeholder meetings and awareness-raising sessions to ensure inclusive participation and transparency and established of a support mechanism to guide stakeholders in the effective and efficient management of the maintenance fund.

V. SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES

76. During the last reporting period, the TFV also carried out a number of supportive activities in Bamako and Timbuktu: (i) programme coordination with the implementing partners; (ii) a joint mission to Timbuktu in March 2025, (iii) planning and conducting a joint TFV and VPRS mission to Timbuktu; (iii) TFV participation in the regional committee for the orientation, coordination and monitoring of development actions in Timbuktu; (iv) management of the feedback mechanism and (v) gender training for the TFV and its implementing partners.

A. PROGRAMME COORDINATION WITH THE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

77. During the reporting period, the TFV continued to hold monthly coordination meetings with all three implementing partners. During these meeting, all three implementing partners presented their activities, preliminary results, encountered challenges, and upcoming priorities for March. Joint activities, such as the participation to the CROCSAD (see below under sub-section C) , the communication around the *Al Hassan* preparatory work to avoid confusion with the *Al Mahdi* reparations programme, and the strengthening of the gender capacities, were planned together.

B. JOINT MISSION TO TIMBUKTU OF MARCH 2025

78. The TFV and its three implementing partners (CFOGRAD, CIDEAL, and UNESCO) participated in a joint mission to Timbuktu from 19 to 28 March 2025, related to both the *Al Mahdi* reparations and the *Al Hassan* case.

79. In relation to the *Al Mahdi* reparations, the mission allowed to assess the progress of collective reparation activities through stakeholder consultations and site visits to completed works under the programme. In this context, the field mission enabled direct on-site

assessments of project outcomes and facilitated in-depth consultations with local communities, public authorities, and custodians engaged by the programme. These exchanges served to identify existing shortcomings and jointly explore appropriate and sustainable solutions.

C. REGIONAL STEERING, COORDINATION AND MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

80. Following an official invitation from the Governor of the Timbuktu Region to attend the first session of the Regional Steering, Coordination and Monitoring Committee for Development Actions (CROCSAD), scheduled for 20–21 March 2025, the TFV with CFOGRAD, CIDEAL and UNESCO participated in the CROCSAD, while on mission, as reported in the previous section.

81. This initial CROCSAD session, chaired by the Governor, provided a platform for the TFV and its partners to brief regional civil and military authorities, local government representatives from all 53 municipalities, technical service agencies, religious and traditional leaders, NGOs, and development partners on the implementation status, ongoing challenges, and future directions of the reparations modalities implemented in the context of the *Al Mahdi* case.

82. In his opening remarks, the Governor commended the TFV and its implementing partners for their contributions to strengthening resilience and social cohesion in the Timbuktu Region. He also praised the community-based and inclusive approach adopted, which enabled the delivery of tangible, needs-driven outcomes—such as the rehabilitation of cemetery walls, the restoration of the Louha Monument, and support for socio-economic activities. The Governor reaffirmed the commitment of both local authorities and communities to continue supporting the reparations process, provided that the initiatives remain responsive to the needs and aspirations of the affected populations.

D. MANAGEMENT OF THE FEEDBACK MECHANISM

83. Taking into consideration the restricted access to Timbuktu, the extensive target population of the collective reparations measures, and its accountability vis-à-vis the community of Timbuktu, the TFV put in place a feedback mechanism in April 2024.³⁰ The

³⁰ Thirty-first Update Report, 29 April 2024, [ICC-01/12-01/15-474-Conf-Exp](#) (“Thirty-first Update Report”), paras 94-96.

feedback mechanism facilitates the interaction between the community of Timbuktu and the TFV.³¹

84. During the last reporting period, a total of ten calls were received. Four of these related to the *Al Hassan* case and were referred to VPRS. Six calls related to the collective reparations in the *Al Mahdi* case, in particular the delay in the payment of the second instalment within the Economic Resilience Facility as explained above. The TFV took actions to verify the information and worked with the implementing partners to identify appropriate solutions.

E. GENDER CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

85. In accordance with the Chamber's instruction to include girls and women in the reparations programme and the principle of zero tolerance of gender-based violence at the International Criminal Court, in the latest reporting period, the TFV continued to further disseminate this commitment. Building on the gender capacity development initiatives conducted between 2022 and 2024, the TFV organised a series of eight additional gender training sessions between 4 February and 25 March 2025. The sessions were delivered by the TFV gender expert in the form of eight two-hours long modules per week. 12 staff members (7 women and 5 men) from the TFV's three implementing partners as part of the *Al Mahdi* reparations programme and two of the partners carrying out the TFV's programme for the benefit of victims in Mali took part in the training.

86. The last two modules were dedicated solely to the gender focal points of each organisation, with the aim of drawing up a common roadmap for achieving the expected results of the TFV Mali Gender Action Plan. The first meeting was held online on 15 April 2025 and will continue on a bi-monthly basis until December 2025. *Ad hoc* and bilateral meetings will be organised so that the gender expert of the TFV's programme can meet with each organisation.

VI. INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE TRIAL CHAMBER

87. This part addresses the questions posed by the Trial Chamber in its February 2025 Decision, as set out in paragraph 1 above.

A. Estimated completion date of the remaining measures

88. As relayed above, the delivery of reparative measures is ongoing and it is currently at a critical stage of active implementation. As per the current timeline, by 31 March 2026 all

³¹ Thirty-first Update Report, paras 94-96.

measures, including the additional measures, are scheduled to have been delivered at the latest by this date. This timeline includes:

- a. Completion of initially approved and additional measures for psychological rehabilitation by 31 December 2025;
- b. Completion of initially approved and additional commemoration measures by 31 December 2025;
- c. Completion of the initially approved and additional measures for the Economic Resilience Facility by 31 March 2026; and
- d. Completion of the initially approved and additional measures for the Rehabilitation of Protected Building by 31 March 2026.

89. The timeline above has been developed based on the current and projected operational capacity of the TFV, and assuming that the current conditions of political cooperation and security will continue. The timeline has been designed to ensure high standards in the delivery of measures and the attainment of the objectives set by the Chamber for the reparation measures. The timeline has embedded flexibility for highly likely delays due to the complex operational environment and the innovative, participative and substantive nature of the intervention.

90. The completion of the *Al Mahdi* reparations programme is currently the top programmatic priority of the TFV. The Board of Directors has prioritised in its resource allocation decisions the financial needs of the programme to ensure the full complement of the reparation order and the completion of the programme as soon as possible. [REDACTED]

91. Continuous risk assessment, monitoring, planning are undertaken to meet the timeline.

B. Closing ceremony

92. The holding of a closing ceremony would maximise the impact of the reparations, enhance the recognition of the harms suffered and of the measures taken to address them, and would raise awareness of the reparative mandate of the ICC inside and outside of Mali. Adherence to local and cultural practices and schedules is essential to ensure that the ceremony will be meaningful for the entire community of Timbuktu. The holding of a closing ceremony thus must be done in close coordination with the beneficiaries and relevant authorities and must be planned in a cost effective manner to ensure that resources spent are sensible and are relevant to the objectives sought.

93. Considering the above, consultations with the victims and stakeholders are ongoing. While there is a general agreement amongst stakeholders of the importance of a closing

ceremony, no date has been yet decided. In this regard, it is the TFV's view that the ceremony should be held [REDACTED]. More information in this regard will be available by the next quarterly progress report.

C. Final narrative and financial report pursuant to regulation 58 of the Regulations of the TFV

94. The preparation of the final narrative and financial report pursuant to regulation 58 of the Regulations of the TFV will follow a) the official date of completion the reparations, i.e. the date of the delivery in full of the measures, 31 March 2026; b) the completion of any additional and/or residual activity by the TFV; c) the completion of financial, administrative and contractual closure activities, including closing of accounts; and d) the analytical and critical stocktaking of the outputs, outcomes and processes involved in the delivery of the reparations, including when possible, the consideration of relevant external or internal evaluations. Following this process, and on the basis of the projected workload of the TFV and of current and projected its capacity, the TFV shall be able to deliver the final report not earlier than 6 February 2027.

IN CONCLUSION,

95. The TFV respectfully requests the Trial Chamber to take note of the present report and stands ready to provide clarifications on any information provided in therein or on any other issue affecting the implementation phase of reparations in the present case.



Deborah Ruiz Verduzco,
Executive Director of the Trust Fund for Victims

Dated this 27th day of June of 2025

At The Hague, The Netherlands