

**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**



**International
Criminal
Court**

Original: English

No.: ICC-01/12-01/15

Date of the original:

29 July 2025

Date of the public redacted
version: **12 September 2025**

TRIAL CHAMBER II

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

SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

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

Public Document

**Public redacted version of Thirty-sixth update report on the updated
implementation plan, with Confidential Annex A**

Source: Trust Fund for Victims

Document to be notified in accordance with regulation 31 of the *Regulations of the Court* to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ The Office of the Prosecutor | ☐ Counsel for the Defence |
| ☐ Legal Representatives of the Victims | ☐ Legal Representatives of the Applicants |
| ☐ Unrepresented Victims | ☐ Unrepresented Applicants (Participation/Reparation) |
| ☐ The Office of Public Counsel for Victims | ☐ The Office of Public Counsel for the Defence |
| ☐ States' Representatives | ☒ Trust Fund for Victims |

REGISTRY

- | | |
|---|---|
| Registrar
M. Zavala Giler, Osvaldo | ☐ Counsel Support Section |
| ☐ Victims and Witnesses Unit | ☐ Detention Section |
| ☒ Victims Participation and Reparations Section | ☒ Public Information and Outreach Section |

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) hereby submits its Thirty-sixth Update Report following Trial Chamber VIII's decision of 4 March 2019 approving the Updated Implementation Plan ("Decision on the UIP") submitted by the TFV,¹ and the Decision on the Request of the Trust Fund for Victims to Submit Update Reports Every Three Months.² On 29 April 2025, the TFV submitted its Thirty-fifth Update Report on implementation ("Thirty-fifth Update Report").³

2. The present report covers the period from 30 April 2025 to 29 July 2025 and is structured as follows: the TFV reports first on individual reparations (Part III); second, on collective reparations (Part IV), and, third, on supportive activities conducted during the reporting period (Part V).

3. In the confidential Annex A to this report, the Registry's situational overview of Mali covering the period from 23 April 2025 to 14 July 2025 (Country Analysis Unit Report) has been included for information of the Trial Chamber.

II. CLASSIFICATION OF THE REPORT

4. Pursuant to regulation 23 *bis* (1) of the Regulations of the Court, the TFV has classified this report and its annex as confidential, as they contain sensitive information related to the 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 yet been located and have therefore not yet received the award.⁴ The funds guaranteeing payment of their awards

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-fifth update report on the updated implementation plan, with Confidential Annexes A, B, C and D, 29 April 2025, ICC-01/12-01/15-480-Conf ("Thirty-fifth Update Report").

⁴ See 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-01/12-01/15-478](#), ("Thirty-fourth Update Report"), paras 4 and 7.

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.⁵

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 have persisted. The activities during this reporting period focused mainly on continuing the implementation of fifteen additional measures endorsed in the Trial Chamber's recent decision of 11 February 2025 ("February 2025 Decision").⁶ Key milestones of this reporting period were the technical handover of the Kabara monument (commemoration project), the selection and funding of initiatives led by local organisations in Timbuktu and of the Timbuktu municipality (economic resilience project), and an acceleration of activities linked to raising community awareness about the maintenance and enhancement of Protected Buildings.

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

8. 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 the implementing partner.

9. Activities described in the present sub-section concern memorialisation activities, including (1) further exchanges with the Kabara neighbourhood council, young people and women on the construction of a memorial in Kabara, (2) a site visit and technical handover of the Kabara memorial, (3) a technical workshop with tourist guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs, and (4) a technical working session on the organisation of the exhibition at the Timbuktu

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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](https://www.icc-cpi.int/court-record/icc-01/12-01/15-479), ("February 2025 Decision"), paras 4, 5, and 7.

Municipal Museum. Other activities described in the present sub-section relate to psychological support in the form of (5) community-based therapy in Timbuktu, the implementation of which continued, as in previous reporting periods, throughout this reporting period.⁷

1. Memorialisation

a) Background

10. 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.⁸ The locally-driven memorialisation process set up by the TFV led to the selection of memorialisation measures 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;⁹ 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.¹⁰

11. In June 2024, additional measures to address the moral harm were identified by the communities and the TFV, including (i) a 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 on memorial in Kabara

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

13. The Kabara memorial is intended to contribute to strengthening the moral resilience of the city's community in the face of the moral harm suffered as a result of the crimes for which Mr Al Mahdi was convicted. It stands as a symbol of remembrance and collective healing, reinforcing the community's memorialisation of past events.

⁷ February 2025 Decision, paras 4, 7.

⁸ Decision on the UIP, paras 97 and 111. See also the Updated Draft Implementation Plan, 22 November 2018, [ICC-01/12-01/15-291-Conf-Exp](#), paras 160-166.

⁹ See Thirty-third Update Report, paras 16-22.

¹⁰ See Thirty-fourth Update Report, paras 14-26.

14. In the previous reporting period, through ongoing dialogue, a scale model of the Kabara memorial was designed and presented to the community of Timbuktu, and thereafter revised in line with collected feedback.

15. A consultation in the form of an openly accessible meeting was held on 18 April 2025 in Kabara to present the final design to the community and gather their opinions and recommendations. In keeping with the community-based approach that has been put in place, 140 people, including 95 women and 45 men, took part in this meeting, the aim of which was to encourage the community to take greater ownership of this memorial dedicated to the Saints, to encourage their commitment during the construction and maintenance of the memorial and, finally, to gauge their sense of satisfaction.

16. On 29 April 2025, construction work on the memorial began on the site allocated by the Timbuktu Urban Community. A joint commission, made up of representatives from the prefecture, the town hall, the technical services of the regional urban planning department, and the CFOGRAD team, was set up to monitor the work.

17. On 18 May and 26 June 2025, CFOGRAD organised site visits at the location of the Kabara memorial to inspect the progress and quality of the construction works. The primary objective of these visits was to assess, with a multidisciplinary team, the compliance of the completed works with the approved technical specifications.

18. The visit of 26 June 2025 took place at the occasion for the formal technical handover of the structure and brought together 35 participants, including 12 women and 23 men. Among the notable attendees were the Prefect of the District, the Secretary General responsible for day-to-day municipal affairs, the Kabara Neighbourhood Council, representatives of the Municipal Commemoration Committee, and various technical departments including Urban Planning, the Cultural Mission, the Regional Directorate of Roads, and the Regional Directorate of Culture.

19. Following the inspection of the completed works, during which some adjustments made during the execution phase were reviewed, the relevant stakeholders proceeded with the signing of the technical and provisional handover report for the Kabara memorial.

20. A memorial and waterhole management committee was set up on 9 July 2025. This committee is made up of seven members (including two women) appointed by the community. The selection criteria require members to be originally from and currently residing in Kabara, to live near the memorial, and to be actively involved in the community. CFOGRAD will organise working sessions with the committee to support them in carrying out their responsibilities.

21. The final acceptance, inauguration, and handover of the memorial to the Timbuktu Urban Authorities are scheduled for the programme's closing ceremony in [REDACTED].

c) Progress on economic measures for the tourist guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs

22. 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 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 together, considering their goals and roles are intrinsically linked. They usually closely collaborate with each other in a mutually beneficial and interdependent manner.

23. Following initial consultations organised on 10 March 2025, a follow-up technical workshop was held on 11 April 2025 at the CFOGRAD premises in Timbuktu. This session was attended by nine representatives (two women and seven men) of the consortium of tourist guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs, and three key technical service departments. Its purpose was to provide structured technical guidance to the consortium as they prepare to implement the project: Construction of a Semi-Modern Poultry House in Timbuktu. The participating key technical services included the Local Office for Social Development and Solidarity Economy, the Local Service for Animal Production and Industry, and the Regional Directorate of Tourism. These entities were engaged not only for their technical expertise but also to ensure institutional ownership and long-term support for the initiative.

24. This workshop enabled a clear and objective evaluation of the project's feasibility. Key outcomes from the session included: (i) a presentation and clarification of the context and objectives of the collective reparation measure; (ii) official acknowledgment and incorporation of the consortium's project into the annual work plans of the relevant municipal-level technical services; (iii) formal validation of the sub-project by all participating technical entities; and (iv) development of a monitoring and implementation plan for the poultry production initiative.

25. Additional technical training in poultry project management was provided on 26 July 2025 to five members of the consortium's management committee, including two women. They were assisted by the technical services of the Local Service for Animal Production and Industry in evaluating the conditions necessary for selecting an appropriate project site, specifying requirements for poultry housing, feeding systems, and nutrition, as well as in selecting suitable medications for the poultry.

26. This collaborative and technically supported process represents an important step in advancing collective reparations for professional groups that have suffered indirect

consequences from the crimes for which Mr Al Mahdi was convicted. By shifting toward sustainable income-generating activities, the initiative not only recognises the losses faced by tourist guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs, but also empowers them to build long-term economic resilience. Continued engagement from institutional stakeholders strengthens the project's sustainability and reflects the reparations programme's commitment to inclusive, participatory recovery strategies.

d) *Progress on technical working session for the exhibition at the Timbuktu Municipal Museum*

27. As part of the implementation of the additional measure aimed at improving the Timbuktu Municipal Museum exhibition on the destruction of the Protected Buildings, a scenography expert visited the city from 30 June to 3 July 2025.

28. Following an initial visit to the Municipal Museum, the expert held an orientation session with the implementation team of the project "*Strengthening the Moral and Individual Resilience of the City's Community*." He also visited the Timbuktu Cultural Mission office to assist in identifying objects recovered from the debris of the mausoleums destroyed in 2012.

29. In collaboration with the UNESCO project manager, the Head of the Cultural Mission, the museum curator, and CFOGRAD's staff, a preliminary selection of 35 items was made. A synthesis meeting chaired by the Head of the Cultural Mission was convened with the technical object selection committee to consolidate findings and define specific roles within the exhibition process. The committee included the museum curator, the scenographer, a graphic artist, and the UNESCO project lead.

30. As a result of this technical session, a set of key activities was identified to guide the next steps toward the exhibition. The process of selecting the images for the exhibition has since continued. In line with recommendations from previous meetings, a working session was held on 26 July 2025 attended by the exhibition curator, the head of the Municipal Museum, the CFOGRAD team, and a local graphic artist to produce murals, which is one of the key activities.

2. *Psychological support*

31. 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.

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

33. During the reporting period, **thirteen rounds** of community therapy were organised in the town of Timbuktu gathering **278** persons (233 women and 45 men). These community therapy rounds were held in the eight neighbourhoods of Timbuktu (one in Abaradjou, two in Djingareibe, three in Bellefarandi, two in Hamabangou, two in Kabara, and three in Sankoré), with the participation of a considerable number of women and girls. The rounds intend to address the psychological harm resulting from the destruction of the mausoleums.

Table 1: Community rounds in Timbuktu

Neighbourhood/location	No.	Participants no.		Total
		Women	Men	
Systemic and Integrative Community Therapy				
Abaradjou	1	15	03	18
Djingareiber	2	43	04	47
Bellefarandi	3	51	07	58
Hamabangou	2	28	12	40
Kabara	2	35	09	44
Sankoré	3	61	10	71
Total	13	233	45	278

Comment: 83.81% of the participants were women and 16.18% were men. 40 people took part in the community rounds for the first time during the reporting period.

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

34. Collective reparations for economic harm suffered by the community of Timbuktu 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:¹¹ (i) a Microproject Support Fund to 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 9,909.18 EUR)¹² 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

¹¹ This structure is the product of the lengthy participatory and inclusive process previously reported, that led to defining the adequate measures and to ensuring that they are endorsed by the community.

¹² Exchange rate applicable on the day of the current report, 29 July 2025, using <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

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.

35. As part of the reallocation of the balance of individual reparations envelope, the number of local initiatives to be supported was increased from 42 to 66, and the amount allocated to the macro projects was increased as well.¹³

36. As a consequence of the re-allocation of funds and the Registrar's approval of the increase of the contract value in 2024, the ICC/TFV and CIDEAL agreed on the increase of the contract value and an extension of the contract beyond October 2025, i.e. until 31 December 2025. The contract amendment is in the process of signature at the time of the filing of this report. The additional funds will enable CIDEAL to continue disbursing the funds necessary to the benefitting organisations.

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

37. 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 52 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) Transfer of the final instalment of the 42 initial projects in Timbuktu

38. The reporting period was marked by simultaneous progress on community projects in both Timbuktu and Bamako, as well as the start-up of macro-projects implemented by the Timbuktu Urban Community.

39. At the end of the previous reporting period, all 42 local initiatives had received a first instalment of 60% for the start of their activities. CIDEAL monitored the implementation of the projects on the basis of previously established criteria, enabling the grassroots organisations to claim the final instalment. Between 29 April and 17 June 2025, the 42 local initiatives received at total of XOF 99,545,580 (equivalent to 151,756.26 EUR), which represents the remaining 40% of their budget.

40. Payment is made directly to the bank accounts of each beneficiary organisation. After each transfer, the coordinators communicate with the project leaders to inform them of the financial transaction. To ensure financial transparency, project leaders are required to submit credit notes as proof of the effective transfer of funds to their bank accounts.

¹³ See Thirty-second Update Report, para. 123.

41. From 16 to 28 June 2025, CIDEAL visited each of the recipient organisations to ensure that the funds had indeed been transferred to the dedicated account. These visits provided an opportunity to explain the administrative processes relevant to the transfer of funds, to observe the progress of projects in accordance with the terms of reference, to check accounting documents, to provide technical support for project monitoring, and finally to collect the opinions and requests of project leaders in the interests of accountability.

42. As a consequence of the visits, CIDEAL identified ten areas in which project leaders expressed a need for training. Given the budget available, three main themes were selected: training in sheep production and fattening, training in agri-food processing, and training in market gardening. At the end of this reporting period, training measures are at the planning stage in collaboration with the official authorities' technical services.

b) Status of the 18 additional initiatives in Timbuktu

43. In the previous reporting period, 18 additional projects were validated by the municipal committee and consolidated in accordance with the guidelines that had been established previously during the project for the selection process of beneficiaries.¹⁴

44. On 18 June 2025, four local initiatives out of the 18 additional initiatives in Timbuktu received payment of 60% of their budget equivalent to the first instalment, amounting to XOF 13,975,950 (equivalent to 21,306.19 EUR).

c) Financing of initial projects in Bamako

45. The validation and contracting process for local initiatives in Bamako was finalised during the previous reporting period. On 18 June 2025, the six local initiatives in Bamako received the first payment totalling XOF 23,325,280 (equivalent to 35,559.16 EUR), representing 60% of their budget.

d) Feedback on activities to the municipal committee

46. On 29 April, 17 and 18 June 2025, the members of the municipal committee and the project sponsors were informed by CIDEAL of the transfer of funds. The meetings organised with the municipal committee provided an opportunity to discuss the current status of local initiatives, the progress of projects and the challenges faced by both project sponsors and the CIDEAL team.

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

47. The second component of the ERF relates to the provision of support to at least two projects conducted by the municipality of Timbuktu, designed to complement the other

¹⁴ Thirty-fifth Update Report, paras 48 – 50.

collective reparations measures. Eventually, three proposals were selected: (i) development of the main façades the cemeteries (next to the Louha memorial), which are subject to uncontrolled occupation; (ii) provision of sanitation equipment for the urban commune; and (iii) treatment of domestic wastewater on the eastern side of the city of Timbuktu and construction of twelve soak pits.

48. During this reporting period, the implementation of the project to improve the main façade of the Idje Thina Sarey, Cheik Sidi El Wafi, and Diamane Hanane cemeteries continued. 70% of the total budget foreseen for this project was transferred to the Timbuktu Town Hall on 17 April 2025, with this first instalment amounting to XOF 17,229,275 (equivalent to 26,265.86 EUR).

49. This project was part of the Town Hall's efforts to clean up the city's main roads and places of worship. Work on the project began on 20 June 2025 at all three cemeteries simultaneously. To date, the outside façade of each of the cemeteries has been paved with 2m-wide interlocking cobblestones to prevent the uncontrolled installation of shopkeepers. This façade is enclosed by a metal gate and trees have been planted. Works have nearly completed at the time of the filing of this report.

50. TFFV and CIDEAL are closely monitoring the implementation and will make a decision regarding the signing of the second macro project shortly.

C. PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PROTECTED BUILDINGS

51. 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;¹⁵ (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 penultimate and previous reporting period. Minor additional work has been pursued in relation to the fifth measure throughout the

¹⁵ Decision on the TFFV'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.legal-tools.org/doc/a7w99z/>) ; February 2025 Decision, paras 4, fn 9 and 7.

previous reporting period. The operationalisation of the sixth and seventh measure is ongoing, with significant advancements during the reporting period, as also detailed further below.

52. These efforts conducted in the reporting period also include work on an additional measure (see sub-part 1 below), as it was determined to fall within the scope of the Reparation Order.¹⁶

1. Reconstruction of the walls of the Cheick Sidi El Moctar El Kounti and Cheick Sidi Mahamoud cemeteries

53. As approved in the February 2025 Decision,¹⁷ this additional measure involves the rehabilitation of fences around the cemeteries of Cheick Sidi El Moctar El Kounti and Cheick Sidi Mahamoud. Following the reconstruction efforts in 2023 and 2024, several façades partially collapsed due to the strain of rubbish dumps adjacent to the cemeteries' boundary walls, as well as the close proximity of two car garages near Sidi Mahamoud's boundary wall. As identified in the reporting period, these two factors continue to create ongoing difficulties.

54. As part of the additional measures to reconstruct the walls, contracts were awarded to two local companies in Timbuktu, both of which had previously completed the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the cemeteries in 2023 and 2024.

55. During the reporting period, the work on the Cheick Sidi El Moctar El Kounti cemetery, which began in June 2025, involved the supply and installation of thirty metal grilles. Additional works to rehabilitate and rebuild 75.08 linear metres of wall sections are being pursued in the Sidi Mahamoud cemetery.

56. The following mitigation measures identified remain the same as in the previous period: (i) raising awareness among stakeholders, particularly local communities, cemetery caretakers, and administrative and political authorities, about preserving the heritage and cleaning up the immediate surroundings of the cemeteries; (ii) raising awareness among caretakers about their role and responsibilities; and (iii) raising awareness among stakeholders with a view to mobilising funds for the removal of rubbish, wastewater management, and the acquisition of additional equipment.

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

57. 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

¹⁶ February 2025 Decision, paras 4, fn 9 and 7.

¹⁷ February 2025 Decision, para. 7.

Mokhtar Ben Sidi Mouhammad Al Kabir Al Kounti. The technical handover took place during the TFV's missions to Timbuktu on respectively 4 October 2024¹⁸ and in December 2024.

58. In the previous reporting period, the TFV and UNESCO conducted a joint mission in March 2025 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).

59. During the current reporting period, UNESCO continued to monitor the maintenance of planted areas through neighbourhood development committees. Shortcomings previously identified included the failure of regularly watering plants in the cemeteries of Trois Saints, Sidi Mahamoud, and Cheick Sidi El Moctar El Kounti. These difficulties have been corrected during this reporting period thanks to the close monitoring by the neighbourhood development committees.

60. In May 2025, the regional authorities, led by the City Council, also launched a major operation to clear public spaces and cemetery grounds in Timbuktu. This operation, which has already affected some of the city's cemeteries, is set to extend to the Alpha Moya and Sidi Mahamoud cemeteries in the upcoming period. This operation came about following advocacy and awareness-raising by the TFV and its implementing partners in order to respond to the concerns of the Timbuktu communities.

61. Several challenges were observed during this period, some of which have been recurrent since the start of the project. This includes (i) the problem of inadequate water supply and the absence of the National Water Company network during the day to ensure proper watering of the plants in the four cemeteries; (ii) the occupation of the immediate surroundings of the cemeteries (Alpha Moya and Sidi Mahamoud) by individuals engaged in lucrative activities (trade, car and motorcycling washing, car repair, metalwork, etc); (iii) unsanitary conditions (garbage and sewage deposits) in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery fences (Cheick Sidi El Moctar El Kounti and Trois Saints); (iv) stray goats in the cemeteries damaging the plants; and (v) insufficient financial resources to meet certain needs identified in the field (purchase of additional equipment for watering and maintaining plants, recruitment of two guards per cemetery, reinforcement of the Trois Saints cemetery protection system with sandbags, and pruning of trees and hedges).

¹⁸ See Thirty-third Update Report, para. 61.

62. The following mitigation measures have been identified, some of which follow from the previous reporting period: (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) raising awareness among caretakers and neighbourhood development committee members about the importance of maintaining planted trees and hedges; (iv) close monitoring of the work with the caretakers by the neighbourhood development committees; and (vi) raising awareness among stakeholders with a view to mobilising funds for garbage removal, wastewater management, and the acquisition of additional equipment.

3. Maintenance fund for the Protected Buildings

63. As approved in the Decision on the UIP,¹⁹ the maintenance fund for Protected Buildings aims to ensure preventive maintenance of the affected sites by preserving their conservation status, minimising deterioration risks, and fostering community ownership of their upkeep. By doing so, it enables the Timbuktu community to perpetuate a living tradition associated with the maintenance of Protected Buildings, ultimately strengthening the communities' ability to meet the challenges of managing and maintaining Timbuktu's architectural heritage beyond the duration of the project.

64. During the reporting period, the TFV and its implementing partner UNESCO continued to support this process in collaboration with local stakeholders, including the Association of Custodians of the Mausoleums and Mosques of Timbuktu and the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu. Discussions focused on the implementation of the fund's action plan and the inclusion of gender considerations within its governance framework.

65. A key consultative meeting was held on 22 May 2025, in the conference room of the Ministry of Culture in Bamako, immediately following the third session of the Steering Committee for the collective reparations programme. The meeting was chaired by the Technical Adviser to the Minister of Culture and brought together the National Director of Cultural Heritage, the Head of the Timbuktu Cultural Mission, two TFV staff members, the Project Coordinator for the present programme at UNESCO, the President and members of the Association of Custodians of Mausoleums and Mosques, among others.

¹⁹ Decision on the UIP, paras 66, 78.

66. This meeting served to update stakeholders on actions undertaken, challenges encountered, and to jointly propose strategies for the effective and efficient management of the maintenance fund for Protected Buildings, in alignment with the objectives of the Reparations Order and the realities on the ground.

67. As a result of this meeting, it was agreed to revise the action plan submitted by the Association of Custodians and to implement the activities under the joint technical supervision of the Cultural Mission and UNESCO.

68. This action is part of the project's sustainability measures and is aimed at enabling the community to manage its tangible and intangible heritage itself over the long term. One of the activities included in the action plan relates to the programme's closing ceremonies, scheduled for November 2025. This involves the plastering of the Sankoré mosque by supporting communities in organising preventive maintenance work on Timbuktu's architectural heritage.

69. Key challenges included ensuring the active participation and representation of women, particularly within the fund's management committee, and the limitations of the current budget in fully addressing the identified maintenance needs.

70. Proposed solutions included enhanced stakeholder engagement through continued regular consultations and awareness-raising activities to strengthen collaboration and shared ownership, and the establishment of a support framework to guide stakeholders in the effective and transparent management of the fund.

4. Capacity building for local stakeholders in cultural heritage conservation

71. During the reporting period, two main initiatives were undertaken by UNESCO to strengthen local capacities in line with international heritage conservation standards.

72. In June 2025, a contract was signed with the *Association Tombouctou Patrimoine* to organise a capacity-building workshop for 40 community leaders and women's association representatives. The workshop was originally scheduled for 17 to 19 June 2025, yet the attack on Timbuktu by Wagner-affiliated forces on 2 June 2025 led to its postponement. In alignment with security guidelines issued by UNDSS and Malian authorities, it was rescheduled for 1 to 3 July 2025 in Timbuktu. The workshop focused on cultural heritage conservation, sustainable management, and social cohesion. *Association Tombouctou Patrimoine* will also conduct three film screenings ("Alwalidji" and Heritage: An Ally for Peace) followed by discussions in schools and cultural spaces. The first screening took place in July 2025.

73. The second initiative involved preparations for contracting the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu to deliver a set of related activities. This includes a masterclass and training for 40

women on their roles in cultural heritage conservation and promotion scheduled for mid-September. The Mission will also lead a public awareness campaign on heritage protection and community responsibilities, including water bill payments, and will oversee the salaries of four caretakers for the maintenance of tree and hedge plantations. This measure will be implemented by organising an information and public awareness campaign on the protection of cultural heritage from July 2025 to December 2025. Several channels are planned to be used, such as recording and broadcasting of cultural heritage awareness and education messages on local radio stations, radio programmes on cultural heritage, and the digital campaign (social networks and web TV).

5. Design and installation of signage on Protected Buildings

74. In June 2025, a consultancy contract was signed by UNESCO with a historian-archaeologist and cultural heritage expert to carry out a technical study for the design and installation of ten interpretive signage panels on Protected Buildings. The study covers historical, graphic, and stylistic elements and aligns with the Operational Guidelines of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

75. Due by 30 July 2025, the study aims to gather key information to support the development of clear, informative content for the signs. The objective is to improve public understanding of each Saint's mausoleum and the Sidi Yahia Mosque, while promoting heritage education among young people and supporting tourism revival in Timbuktu.

76. The study will identify the official name of each mausoleum, a brief history of each monument, and its social, religious, and cultural significance.

77. This content will guide the graphic design and production of the ten signage panels, in line with UNESCO's guidelines.

78. The signage will be designed, produced, and installed by a local artist or artisan workshop in Timbuktu, based on the study's findings and under the supervision of a cultural heritage expert.

V. SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES

79. During this reporting period, the TFV also carried out a number of supportive activities in Bamako and Timbuktu, namely (i) programme coordination with the implementing partners; (ii) a TFV preparatory meeting prior the Steering Committee with the Ministry of Culture, and the TFV's participation in the Steering Committee for the coordination and monitoring of collective repair measures relating to the maintenance and rehabilitation of Protected Buildings in Timbuktu; (iii) management of the feedback mechanism; (iv) consultations and organisation

around the closure of the programme; (v) cooperation with the *Autorité de Gestions des Réparations en Faveur des Victimes des Crises au Mali* (Authority for the Management of Reparations in Favour of Victims of Crises in Mali) (AGRV); and (vi) other key meetings. Finally, the TFV reports on (vii) other matters of interest to the implementation of the reparations programme.

A. PROGRAMME COORDINATION WITH THE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

80. Monitoring by the TFV of implementing partners is happening on a permanent basis. To reinforce monitoring, the TFV continued to hold coordination meetings with all three implementing partners. During these meeting, implementing partners presented their activities, preliminary results, encountered challenges, and upcoming priorities. Joint activities were also organised in close coordination between all stakeholders.

B. STEERING COMMITTEE

81. *Preparatory meetings for the Steering Committee:* On 20 and 21 May 2025, ahead of the Steering Committee meeting, the TFV, its implementing partners, and key stakeholders in the implementation of the reparation programme held two meetings. The major points on the agenda were the closing of the programme, the closing ceremony, and the capitalisation of the *Al Mahdi* reparations programme. In addition, matters relevant to the *Al Hassan* case were discussed.

82. *Third session of the Steering Committee (23 May 2025):* Building on the outcomes of the preparatory meetings, the third session convened under the leadership of the newly appointed Minister of Culture. The meeting reaffirmed the Government of Mali's interest in the ongoing reparations programme and its commitment to strengthening national ownership and interministerial coordination.

83. *Composition of participants:* Participants included (i) five Government Ministries: Culture, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Reconciliation, and Religious Affairs; (ii) diplomatic missions: Embassies of Germany and Canada; (iii) a delegation from the Timbuktu community; (iv) a representative of the Governor; (v) the acting Mayor of Timbuktu and (vi) the Cultural Mission.

84. The TFV delivered a presentation on the progress achieved and efforts made to finalise the reparations programme in *Al Mahdi*, and on other matters relevant to the *Al Hassan* case.

C. MANAGEMENT OF THE FEEDBACK MECHANISM

85. 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 2024.²⁰ The feedback mechanism facilitates the interaction between the community of Timbuktu and the TFV.²¹

86. During the last reporting period, a total of six calls were received. Three of these related to the *Al Hassan* case and were referred to VPRS. Two are related to the programme for the benefit of victims implemented by the partner P-14 in Gao and Mopti Regions and one call related to the collective reparations in the *Al Mahdi* case, where the benefitting organisations called about a delay in the payment of the second instalment within the Economic Resilience Facility. The TFV took actions to verify the information and worked with the implementing partners to identify appropriate solutions.

D. CONSULTATIONS AND ORGANISATION AROUND THE CLOSURE OF THE PROGRAMME

87. In the previous report, the TFV reported that consultations would be conducted with the Timbuktu community, relevant authorities, and other stakeholders, following which the TFV would provide additional information in the next update report. The consultations have been completed.

88. As described above, the activities are on track to end the programme within the timelines indicated in the Thirty-Fifth Update Report.

89. The dates for officially closing the programme have since crystallised. The TFV is currently planning to officially close the programme in Timbuktu from [REDACTED], as well as a day of programme in Bamako planned for [REDACTED]. The dates are subject to external factors that may require rescheduling.

90. The community and various stakeholders have made proposals for the programme to include elements such as the inauguration of the permanent mausoleum exhibition, the traditional plastering of a Protected Building as a symbolic gesture to express gratitude to the Court and the TFV, a memorial walk, a conference relevant to the protection of cultural heritage, and an official closing ceremony. The programme aims to enhance the reparative value

²⁰ Thirty-first Update Report, 29 April 2024, ICC-01/12-01/15-474-Conf-Exp (“Thirty-first Update Report”), paras 94-96.

²¹ Thirty-first Update Report, paras 94-96.

of what has been achieved, embed cultural and community significance, be locally grounded, place women at the centre, make reparations visible and demonstrate feasibility, and highlight a landmark international precedent in judicial reparations for crimes against cultural property, with this case being the first of its kind.

E. COOPERATION WITH THE *AUTORITE DE GESTION DES REPARATIONS EN FAVEUR DES VICTIMES* (AGRV)

91. The *Autorité de gestion des réparations en faveur des victimes* (AGRV) is the independent national body established by the Government of Mali to implement the country's reparations programme. AGRV operates as the institutional successor to the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (Commission Vérité, Justice et Réconciliation – CVJR).

92. The TFV considers that a sustained engagement and cooperation with AGRV is essential, as the mandates of AGRV and the TFV are mutually reinforcing and both organisations share common objectives in delivering justice and reparations to victims. During the reporting period two meetings were held with AGRV, the second engagement centering on the case *Al Hassan*. The first working meeting was attended by AGRV, the TFV, and the TFV's implementing partners CIDEAL, CFOGRAD, UNESCO, and P15. During the initial meeting, the AGRV and the TFV recognised the importance of formalising cooperation through an agreement to guide joint initiatives. A key point of discussion was the coordination of the work of both bodies in relation to victims, focussing on the issue of double reparations. The TFV highlighted the legal and ethical constraints of the ICC/TFV in sharing confidential victim data.

F. ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

93. In addition to the meetings reported throughout this report, the TFV also held several meetings with key national and local stakeholders which strengthened TFV-government cooperation, including a meeting with the Secretary-General of Culture; the Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Reconciliation; the Governor of Timbuktu; the Mayor of Timbuktu; the new interim UNESCO Country Director in Maland the UN Resident Coordinator in Mali.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

94. *The 2 June 2025 attack in Timbuktu:* The attack on 2 June 2025 in Timbuktu had a profound psychological impact on the local population. [REDACTED] rooted trauma within the community. Similar incidents may risk disrupting or delaying the implementation and timely conclusion of the reparations programme.

95. *Work Related to the Al Hassan Case:* The work of the TFV in Timbuktu during the reporting period has overlapped with work associated with the proceedings in the *Al Hassan*

case, which has required extensive engagement with the Timbuktu community in order to submit case-specific observations relevant to reparations in that case.

IN CONCLUSION,

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 12th Day of September 2025

At The Hague, The Netherlands