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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 Document

**Public redacted version of Thirty-seventh Update Report on the Updated
Implementation Plan, with confidential Annexes A, B and C**

Source: Trust Fund for Victims

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) hereby submits its Thirty-seventh 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 July 2025, the TFV submitted its Thirty-sixth Update Report on implementation ("Thirty-sixth Update Report").³

2. The present report covers the period from 30 July 2025 to 29 October 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 15 July to 10 October 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 annexes as confidential, as they contain sensitive information related to the current situation in Mali and to the ongoing implementation of the programme, including internal TFV work products, 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.legal-tools.org/doc/1c2525/>.

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](https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/1c2525/), disposition.

³ Thirty-sixth update report on the updated implementation plan, with Confidential Annex A, 29 July 2025, ICC-01/12-01/15-481-Conf ("Thirty-sixth Update Report"). A public redacted version of this filing is available at: <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/4pqjf6z0/>.

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](https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/1c2525/), ("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 six 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 reparation measures have continued. The activities during this reporting period focused mainly on continuing the implementation of the initial reparation measures and the fifteen additional measures endorsed in the Trial Chamber's decision of 11 February 2025 ("February 2025 Decision").⁶ Key milestones of this reporting period were the completion of rehabilitation works at the Timbuktu Municipal Museum (commemoration project), the funding of initiatives led by local organisations in Timbuktu and of the Timbuktu municipality (economic resilience project), and a continuing acceleration of activities linked to raising community awareness about the maintenance and enhancement of Protected Buildings.

8. Annex B to the present report highlights the percentage of implementation of each of the collective measures.

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

9. 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.

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.legal-tools.org/doc/w86l3si8/>); Thirty-third update report on the updated implementation plan, 29 October 2024, ICC-01/12-01/15-477, ("Thirty-third Update Report"), para. 16; Thirty-fourth Update Report, para. 4; 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"), para. 5 (A public redacted version of this filing is available at: <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/j31zq28h/>); Thirty-sixth Update Report, para. 5 (A public redacted version of this filing is available at: <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/4pqjif6z0/>).

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, ("February 2025 Decision"), paras 4, 5, and 7.

10. Activities described in the present sub-section concern memorialisation activities, including (1) a high-level site visit at the Louha memorial, (2) preparation of plaques for the memorial in Kabara, (3) the completion of rehabilitation works, (4) continuation of the preparation of an exhibition at the Timbuktu Municipal Museum, (5) significant developments in relation to measures for Timbuktu's tour guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs, (6) progress on a sensitisation campaign on the role and responsibilities of stakeholders in the conservation and management of Protected Buildings in Timbuktu, and (7) a training workshop on issues related to the protection of the latter for community leaders in Timbuktu. Other activities described in the present sub-section relate to psychological support in the form of (8) community-based therapy in Timbuktu, the implementation of which continued, as in previous reporting periods, throughout this reporting period.

1. Memorialisation

a) Background

11. In accordance with the Trial Chamber's Decision on the UIP, the TFV implements a memorialisation measure with the purpose 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.⁷ 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;⁸ and (ii) the construction of an additional room in the Municipal Museum of Timbuktu. The Louha was inaugurated in October 2024 during a memorialisation ceremony.⁹

12. 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 tour guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs; and (iv) efforts to rehabilitate the Timbuktu museum.¹⁰

⁷ 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.

⁸ See Thirty-third Update Report, paras 16-22.

⁹ See Thirty-fourth Update Report, paras 14-26.

¹⁰ See February 2025 Decision, paras 4 and 7.

b) Progress made during the reporting period

1) Louha Memorial

13. 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.¹¹

14. On 11 August 2025, during the event marking the return of ancient manuscripts to Timbuktu, a high-level government delegation visited the city. As part of this visit, the Minister of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion, the Minister of Handicrafts, Culture, Hospitality Industry and Tourism, and the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research toured the Louha, accompanied by the Governor, a member of the National Transition Council (CNT), and the Chair of the Culture Committee. The delegation expressed strong appreciation for the work. The TFV's implementing partner CFOGRAD provided an overview of the context and rationale behind the Louha, highlighting the challenges faced and the prospects for its future development. A member of the Authority in charge of reparation (*Autorité de gestion des réparations des victimes des crises au Mali* or AGRV) was also present. The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research emphasised the Louha's thoughtful incorporation of various components, philosophy, and symbolic significance.

2) Progress on Memorial in Kabara

15. The building of the memorial and technical handover were completed during the previous reporting period. In view of the inauguration and official handover of the memorial to the Timbuktu community scheduled for November 2025, the TFV's implementing partner CFOGRAD has worked on the commemorative and informational plaques that will appear on the site. The approach adopted by the TFV and CFOGRAD is the same as that used for the design of the plaques for the Louha memorial, both in terms of content and form. For security reasons, and after consultation with the community and the authorities, it was decided not to include the name of Mr Al Mahdi but to refer to the Reparation Order through other identifying means.

16. The commemorative plaque will indicate the purpose of this memorial and link it to the *Al Mahdi* case in the following way (free translation into English): 'Memorial erected in reparation for the moral damage suffered by the community of Timbuktu as a result of the destruction of nine mausoleums and the door of the Sidi Yahia Mosque from 30 June to 11 July

¹¹ See Thirty-fifth Update Report, para. 32.

2012, pursuant to Reparation Order ICC-01/12-01/15-236 issued by the International Criminal Court on 17 August 2017.’

17. The plaque also aims to provide information about the process and the stakeholders involved in the commemoration and erection of the memorial in the following way (free translation into English): ‘Memorial inaugurated on [...] 2025 by [...]. Its construction was decided by the municipal commemoration committee and the urban municipality of Timbuktu following community consultations conducted by CFOGRAD organisation as part of the reparations programme implemented by the Trust Fund for Victims pursuant to the implementation of Reparations Order ICC-01/12-01/15-236 issued by the International Criminal Court on 17 August 2017.’

18. The production process for the commemorative plaques is underway. The first plaque is currently being engraved in accordance with the approved design and specifications. The engraving of the second plaque will commence once confirmation has been received regarding the authorities who will be in attendance at the dedication ceremony, ensuring that all relevant names and titles are accurately represented.

3) Rehabilitation work of the Timbuktu Municipal Museum

19. In addition to the room built at the Timbuktu Municipal Museum to house an exhibition dedicated to the mausoleums, which had been handed over to the community of Timbuktu in May 2024,¹² 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. Rehabilitation works, which began on 27 January 2025, were completed within the previous reporting period. To enrich the exhibition focusing on the destruction of the mausoleums and the collective restoration efforts, the walls of the newly added hall feature a bas-relief created during the reporting period by a local artist under the guidance of the implementing partner CFOGRAD and the museum’s chief curator. This artwork visually narrates the destruction of the mausoleums and a day of reconstruction, with the Louha prominently represented.

21. The rehabilitation has generated significant benefits for the museum’s functionality and appeal. The museum experienced a rise in visitor numbers, maintaining strong engagement with

¹² See, e.g., Thirty-third Update Report, para. 18.

the local community and attracting personnel from national and international organisations alike. Additionally, the museum's inner courtyard now serves as a rehearsal space for artistic troupes. The municipality's engagement and interest in the museum have also notably intensified.

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

22. As part of the initial memorialisation measures, the community decided to establish a permanent exhibition dedicated to the mausoleums. The committee responsible for its design chose to focus on engaging the younger generation of Timbuktu, with a strong pedagogical and educational emphasis aimed at fostering awareness and appreciation of the city's cultural heritage.

23. During the previous reporting period, the key stakeholders involved in this process, CFOGRAD, UNESCO, the Timbuktu Cultural Mission, and the museum's curator, in collaboration with the scenography expert, selected 35 significant artefacts to be featured in the exhibition and defined the respective roles and responsibilities within its development process.

24. In the current reporting period, the artwork previously mentioned has been completed. This piece will serve as one of the central elements of the exhibition.

25. Additionally, the introductory text for the exhibition entrance was drafted jointly by the TFV's implementing partner CFROGAD and the Head of the Cultural Mission, and reviewed and consolidated by the TFV. The text has since been approved by the local committee, reading as follows in the original language, French: *'Entre le 30 juin et le 11 juillet 2012, la direction d'Ansar Dine en concertation avec la Hesba ont endommagé ou détruit plusieurs mosquées, mausolées et monuments historiques de Tombouctou. La détermination de la communauté internationale à protéger ces bâtiments classés au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO a permis la libération de la ville de Tombouctou et la reconstruction du patrimoine. Plusieurs commanditaires et auteurs de ces destructions ont été poursuivis et jugés pour ce crime de guerre consistant à diriger intentionnellement des attaques contre des bâtiments religieux et historiques. Un des auteurs a été condamné par la justice internationale. La Cour pénale internationale a consécutivement reconnu les préjudices subis par l'ensemble de la communauté de Tombouctou et prononcé une ordonnance de réparation le 17 août 2017 (ICC-01/12-01/15-236) : C'est dans le cadre de ces réparations que cette salle d'exposition a été érigée en mémoire de ce crime et pour exposer les stigmates de cette page sombre de notre histoire. L'exposition permanente sur les mausolées doit servir de support didactique aux générations présentes et futures afin que plus jamais, de telles atrocités ne se reproduisent'.*

26. The plaque associated with the exhibition is currently being engraved.

5) *Progress on measures for tour guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs*

27. As part of the additional measures, the community wished to have a reparation measure dedicated to Timbuktu's tour guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs who represent the socio-economic groups that have been particularly affected by the destruction of the Protected Buildings and the ensuing lack of tourism, but who did not meet the criteria set up by the Chamber to be found eligible for individual reparation 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.¹³ Budgetary constraints further justified the decision to consolidate the activities within a single project. Upon consultation, the association of Timbuktu's tour guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs opted to work on the construction of a semi-modern poultry house.

28. *Training:* From 5 to 8 August 2025, a training session was held for five members (three men, two women) of the poultry unit management committee of the association. The training, led by the local service for animal production and industry, focused on poultry feed preparation using locally available materials. It aimed to strengthen operational capacity and reduce production costs for eggs and broiler.

29. *Equipment installation:* The association of tour guides, hoteliers, and restaurateurs has completed the installation of equipment related to a poultry project and received the first batch of chicks on 18 August 2025.

30. *Monitoring visit:* On 18 September 2025, a follow-up mission composed of members of the communal committee, the first vice-president of the special delegation of Timbuktu's municipality, and five technical services (animal production and industry, reparations monitoring committee, Cultural Mission, regional directorates of tourism and culture) assessed the project's progress. The mission aimed to closely monitor the initiative and strengthen its institutional anchoring.

31. A total of 17 people, including four women, participated in the visit. During discussions, the first vice-president of the special delegation of Timbuktu's municipality provided several recommendations, including:

- (i) Continuing poultry farming in close collaboration with the veterinary service;
- (ii) Expanding the poultry unit in the coming years;

¹³ Thirty-sixth Update Report, para. 22.

(iii) Diversifying poultry-related activities, including feed production.

6) *Awareness campaign on the role and responsibilities of stakeholders in the conservation and management of Protected Buildings in Timbuktu*

32. This measure seeks to enhance understanding among stakeholders of their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and managing Timbuktu's Protected Buildings.

33. Between 1 and 18 September 2025, awareness campaigns were conducted across Timbuktu's eight neighbourhoods. Using theatrical performances by the "SABABOU-BANGOU" troupe, the campaigns highlighted the importance of cultural heritage, protection responsibilities, the impact of armed conflict, and the role of women in heritage conservation. Community discussions followed, resulting in commitments to organise monthly clean-up days around protected sites, encourage household registration with sanitation groups and support municipal efforts to address encroachments near cemeteries and cultural sites.

34. The campaign engaged 2,487 participants (1,533 women, 954 men) in public spaces with the support of local committees and traditional authorities. This approach fostered strong community ownership of heritage preservation efforts.

7) *Training workshop on issues related to the protection of Protected Buildings for community leaders*

35. The measure of providing training workshops on issues related to Protected Buildings aims at enhancing understanding of conservation challenges in Timbuktu, promoting community collaboration in routine heritage maintenance and sharing best practices for safeguarding cultural assets.

36. From 23 to 26 September 2025, a training session was held for 45 community leaders (25 women, 20 men) on protecting Timbuktu's cultural heritage amid natural and human threats. The training allowed to identify and share best practices for heritage conservation.

2. Psychological support

37. The measure of providing psychological support aims to provide such support to the Timbuktu community, addressing the moral and emotional harm resulting from the crimes for which Mr Al Mahdi was convicted.

38. Considering the local context, prevailing attitudes toward mental health, and the number of individuals requiring psychosocial support, the TFV and CFOGRAD have opted to implement a community-based therapy approach. For anchoring and sustainability purposes, CFOGRAD associated 16 community relays (eight women and eight men), as well as the local department for the Promotion of Women, Children and Families.

39. During the reporting period, **sixteen rounds** of community therapy were organised in the town of Timbuktu gathering **253** persons (165 women and 88 men). These community therapy rounds were held in the eight neighbourhoods of Timbuktu (two therapy rounds in Badjindé, Bellefarandi, Djingareiber, Kabara, Sareikeina, Abaradjou, Sankoré, and Hamabangou), with the participation of a considerable number of women and girls (65% of the participants were women and 35% were men). 28 people took part in the community rounds for the first time, while the majority had already attended previous rounds.

40. In total, 70 rounds of community therapy were held with the participation of a total of 1978 persons (1399 women, 579 men).

41. The topics addressed during the rounds vary according to the concerns of the participants. During the reporting period, these sessions provided Timbuktu community members with a space to discuss issues such as flooding of crops and villages, the loss of loved ones, chronic illness, physical and psychological abuse perpetrated by jihadist groups, youth unemployment, and recurring insecurity on national roads. The opportunity to share experiences, receive support, gain recognition, and explore possible solutions with fellow community members continues to play a significant role in strengthening psychosocial wellbeing.

Table: Community rounds in Timbuktu – July to September 2025

Neighbourhood/location	No.	Participants no.		Total
		Women	Men	
Systemic and Integrative Community Therapy				
Badjindé	2	28	8	36
Bellefarandi	2	16	6	22
Djingareiber	2	14	17	31
Kabara	2	13	7	20
Sareikeina	2	23	12	35
Abaradjou	2	28	18	46
Sankoré	2	29	9	38
Hamabangou	2	14	11	25
Total	16	165	88	253

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

42. 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:¹⁴ (i) a Microproject Support Fund to support a minimum of 46 initiatives carried out by local grassroots organisations based in Timbuktu and Bamako for a maximum amount of XOF 6,500,000 (equivalent of 9,909.18 EUR)¹⁵ selected following a local, inclusive, and open process; and (ii) the provision of support to two macro projects conducted by the municipality of Timbuktu, designed to benefit the entire community, to complement the other collective reparations measures, and 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.

43. As part of the reallocation of the balance available from the financial envelope of individual reparations awards, the number of local initiatives to be supported was increased, and the amount allocated to the macro projects was increased as well.¹⁶

44. As a consequence of the reallocation of funds and following a procurement process to enable an increase in the contract value in 2024, the ICC/TFV and CIDEAL agreed on an increase of the contract value and an extension of the contract until 31 December 2025. The contract amendment was signed on 29 July 2025. The additional funds enable CIDEAL to continue disbursing funds to the benefitting organisations.

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

45. The TFV continues to support local initiatives under Component 1 of the ERF. Initially, the programme aimed at targeting a minimum of 46 initiatives.¹⁷ As mentioned above, due to the reallocation of the remaining funds from individual reparations awards to collective reparations, the number was increased to 70 supported grassroots initiatives: 60 in Timbuktu and ten in Bamako. Twenty-two of them consist of projects aimed at strengthening social cohesion, five relate to projects with the goal of protecting the environment, nine pertain to promoting cultural heritage, and 34 aim at supporting productive sectors.

a) Disbursement of funds and contracts signing

46. As of the reporting date, all 70 initiatives have been launched and are at varying stage of implementation, depending on the timing of the issuance of the first instalment.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Exchange rate applicable on the day of the previous report, 29 July 2025, using <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

¹⁶ See Thirty-second Update Report, para. 123.

¹⁷ See Twenty-eighth Update Report, 6 June 2023, ICC-01/12-01/15-465-Conf, para. 27. A public redacted version of this report is available at: <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/y3fw7v/>.

47. During the reporting period, following satisfactory progress in line with the implementation criteria and verification of the accounting documentation of each of the organisations, the second instalment of funding (40%) was disbursed to ten initiatives, including four based in Timbuktu and six in Bamako.

48. In addition, contracts were signed on 14 October 2025 with 18 newly validated local initiatives (14 in Timbuktu and four in Bamako) selected following the reallocation of funds. These 18 organisations have also received their first instalment of 60% on the same date. Payment experienced some delays due to CIDEAL's internal payment procedures, therefore a session was organised by CIDEAL with the 18 organisations on 29 August 2025 to address concerns related to these delays. The session clarified procedures and reassured stakeholders of the disbursement schedule. Information was also passed to the communal committee to ensure all key actors remain fully engaged. Following receipt of the first instalment, the 18 organisations expressed satisfaction. CIDEAL provided individual follow-ups with all beneficiary organisations to confirm receipt of funds and ensure understanding of reporting and accountability requirements.

49. In summary, as of the present date, 52 initiatives (46 in Timbuktu and 6 in Bamako) have been fully funded. 18 initiatives (14 in Timbuktu and 4 in Bamako) have received the first instalment of 60%. 23 initiatives (21 in Timbuktu and 2 in Bamako) have been finalised, while 47 initiatives (39 in Timbuktu and 8 in Bamako) are ongoing.

b) Monitoring and support

50. During the reporting period, CIDEAL conducted field visits to 30 initiatives, including to ten newly launched projects. The main challenges faced by the benefitting organisations include limited technical capacity in activity implementation and a general lack of financial and administrative management tools. Despite these challenges, several organisations demonstrated above-average quality in project execution.

51. The TFV also conducted a monitoring visit of the projects supported as part of the ERF in Bamako during the reporting period.

52. To promote visibility and knowledge-sharing, a booklet documenting all local initiatives is currently under development.

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

53. The second component of the ERF relates to the provision of support to two projects conducted by the municipality of Timbuktu. Two proposals were ultimately selected: (i) enhancement of the main façades of the Idje Thina Sarey, Cheik Sidi El Wafi, and Diamane

Hanane cemeteries, which are subject to uncontrolled occupation; and (ii) treatment of domestic wastewater on the eastern part of the city of Timbuktu and construction of twelve soak pits.

54. In the previous reporting period, 70% of the budget for the cemetery façade improvement project was disbursed, and physical works began on 20 June 2025 across all three sites. During the current reporting period, the final 30% payment was released, and the project has now been fully implemented. The works included paving the façades of the three cemeteries with 2-metre-wide interlocking cobblestones, installing metal gates, and planting trees to prevent unlawful occupation and enhance the appearance of these important public spaces. The results have been positively assessed, both technically and visually.

55. Progress has also been made on the second macro project relating to domestic wastewater treatment. A contract was signed on 14 October 2025 for the construction of twelve soak pits in the eastern district of Timbuktu, with a total budget of EUR 76,907.48. The first disbursement, representing 70% of the total amount (EUR 53,835.24), is currently being processed. Implementation is expected to begin shortly under the close monitoring of the TFV and CIDEAL.

C. PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PROTECTED BUILDINGS

56. 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;¹⁸ (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.

57. The following complementary measures were added following the reallocations of funds from individual reparations awards to collective reparations: (i) additional reparation of the fences of the cemeteries of Three Saints and Alpha Moya; (ii) the continuation of the capacities' strengthening of actors in charge of the protection and maintenance of Protected Buildings in Timbuktu; (iii) outreach of the Timbuktu community about the value of Protected Buildings; (iv) the installation of information signs near the Protected Buildings; (v) additional work on the fences of the cemeteries of Sidi Mahmoud and Sidi El Moktar El Kounti; (vi)

¹⁸ 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.legal-tools.org/doc/a7w99z/>); February 2025 Decision, paras 4, fn 9 and 7.

setting up of an irrigation mechanism for the trees planted; (vii) the dwelling for the irrigation system; (viii) the increase of the material support to the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu¹⁹ and (ix) contribution to the refurbishment of a cultural space in Timbuktu.²⁰

1. *Reconstruction of the walls of the Cheick Sidi El Moctar El Kounti and Cheick Sidi Mahamoud cemeteries and additional work on fences*

58. As approved in the February 2025 Decision,²¹ 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, additional rehabilitation works were mandated to address the partial collapses of boundary walls at the Cheick Sidi El Moctar El Kounti and Cheick Sidi Mahamoud cemeteries.

59. Two local firms, previously engaged in the first phase of rehabilitation of the cemeteries, were contracted to carry out supplementary works under an amendment requested by the project delegates and submitted to UNESCO Mali.

60. The supplementary rehabilitation works for both cemeteries were successfully completed within two months, on 2 and 4 August 2025 respectively, as per the technical requirements. Persistent external pressures from the usage of adjacent land and challenges relevant to waste management remain a concern, necessitating ongoing community engagement and stakeholder cooperation to safeguard the restored cemetery boundaries.

2. *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. These actions aim to safeguard the sites from environmental degradation while promoting community engagement in their long-term preservation.

62. The technical handover of the trees and hedges took place during the TFV's missions to Timbuktu respectively on 4 October 2024²² and in December 2024.

63. In the previous reporting period, the TFV and UNESCO agreed that the maintenance and surveillance of the planted areas would be entrusted to the Neighbourhood Development Committees of the respective areas. Initial shortcomings in watering and care were addressed

¹⁹ February 2025 Decision, paras 4 to 7, fn 8.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 5, fn. 13. See also Thirty-third Report, [ICC-01/12-01/15-477](#), para. 96.

²¹ *Ibid.*, para. 7.

²² See Thirty-third Update Report, para. 61.

through strengthened local monitoring and a city-led clean-up campaign targeting public spaces and cemeteries.

64. Ongoing sensitisation of Neighbourhood Development Committees members and caretakers on the importance of maintaining the planted areas, combined with regular oversight, is helping to ensure the sustainability of the initiative. During the reporting period, the process for transferring an additional maintenance budget to the Neighbourhood Development Committees was formalised through a contract signed between UNESCO and the Timbuktu Cultural Mission in August 2025. Following the first payment by UNESCO, contracts were signed in September with the four cemetery caretakers, and 33% of the allocated funds were disbursed to the Neighbourhood Development Committees. The remaining funds will be transferred progressively with subsequent payments planned for October and December.

65. Improved rainfall during the period, combined with active oversight by the Neighbourhood Development Committees, contributed to better growth and survival rates of the trees and hedges across all four cemeteries.

66. To ensure a sustainable water supply, a tender was also launched for the construction of two basic water supply systems (equipped boreholes) to serve the Trois Saints and Sidi Mahamoud cemeteries. Additionally, a drip irrigation system for all four cemeteries has been planned. The tender process closed on 10 October 2025, with implementation scheduled between November and December 2025.

67. In the meantime, temporary water access for the Sidi Mahamoud cemetery has been arranged through connection to the Abaradjou neighbourhood water tower, while the planned boreholes will provide a long-term solution.

3. Maintenance Fund for the Protected Buildings

68. As approved in the Decision on the UIP,²³ a 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.

69. During the previous reporting period, a high-level consultative meeting in Bamako resulted in the revision of the Maintenance Fund's action plan and reaffirmed the need for joint

²³ Decision on the UIP, paras 66, 78.

technical supervision by UNESCO and the Timbuktu Cultural Mission. It also emphasised the importance of inclusive governance, particularly gender representation, and identified financial limitations as a key constraint.

70. The Maintenance Fund was effectively operationalised following the August 2025 signing of an implementation partnership contract with the Association of Mausoleum and Mosque Managers of Timbuktu (ARMMT). In collaboration with the Cultural Mission, UNESCO, and other stakeholders, ARMMT leads the Maintenance Fund's activities aimed at the sustainable preservation of Timbuktu's protected heritage sites.

71. On 2 October 2025, the first disbursement to the Maintenance Fund was successfully executed, marking a key milestone in its operationalisation.

72. The Maintenance Fund's inaugural action supported the traditional plastering (*crépissage*) of the Djingareiber Mosque, carried out on 12 October 2025. This intervention coincided with the celebration of the mosque's 700th anniversary, which is an event of significant cultural and symbolic importance. The plastering event attracted a large audience and served not only to contribute to the physical upkeep of the two sites, but also strengthen community engagement and reaffirm traditional maintenance practices. Beyond a restoration effort, the activity stood as a symbol of resistance, resilience, peace, social cohesion, and living together. The entire population, irrespective of social or ethnic background, came together around this heritage site, one of the most powerful symbols of this mysterious and mystical city, and worked hand in hand in maintaining and protecting this 700-year-old mosque.

73. The Maintenance Fund also supported the organisation of awareness campaigns linked to the Djingareyber mosque's 700th anniversary. During the reporting period, the Maintenance Fund conducted also key activities in partnership with the Cultural Mission for training, capacity building and stakeholder sensitisation:

74. From 18 to 20 October 2025, a training session for cultural actors and local authorities was held in Timbuktu, covering administrative and financial management, fundraising, and cultural heritage conservation issues. Participants included representatives of the regional council of Timbuktu, the Town Hall of Timbuktu, civil society organisations active in heritage preservation, the Vivre Ensemble Festival, as well as six representatives of the committees of development of the sector, heads of mausoleums and mosque managers.

75. On 21 October 2025, the ARMMT organised a workshop on the role and responsibilities of women in preserving cultural heritage in Timbuktu, within the framework of the Maintenance Fund.

76. The need for a dedicated initiative for women was identified as part of the TFV Mali Gender Action Plan, recognising that women's contributions to heritage protection are often silent and invisible, yet they have historically preserved manuscripts, traditions, and cultural practices, even in history's darkest moments. The workshop, held from 22 to 23 October 2025, focused on tangible and intangible cultural heritage, highlighting women's roles in protection, preservation, safeguarding, enhancement, and promotion of cultural heritage. The workshop brought together 40 women ambassadors of Timbuktu's cultural heritage, including association leaders, religious women, cultural actors, local authorities, and members of the press, and was attended by representatives from the Governorate, the Cultural Mission, victims' associations, and the UNESCO Country Office Head. It aimed at recognising women's central role in preserving cultural heritage and empowering them to take active leadership.

77. These initial events will be followed by other activities conducted by the ARMMT: the supply of maintenance equipment for the Sankoré mosque plastering, the procurement of traditional materials for physical repairs of Protected Buildings, the plastering of the Sankoré mosque scheduled for November 2025, the replacement of Djingareyber mosque scaffolding and repairs to mausoleum doors, the installation of six informational panels about mausoleums by the end of the year, as explained below, environmental upkeep around cemeteries, and emergency repairs as needed based on damage assessment by the corporation of masons.

78. The plan also includes the organisation of a masterclass on traditional architecture techniques for the maintenance, management, and conservation of Protected Buildings in Timbuktu. The session will be organised for 40 participants, including ten qualified masons, five entrepreneurs, ten apprentice masons, ten female builders, and five mixing operators. It is scheduled to take place in November 2025. During the current reporting period, preparatory activities focused on the identification and contracting of five expert trainers, the development of key documents such as Terms of Reference and programme schedules, and the finalisation of the participants list.

4. Outreach of the Timbuktu community about the value of Protected Buildings

79. As part of the awareness campaign on protecting Timbuktu's cultural heritage, three key actions have been carried out:

80. *Film screenings and debates:* UNESCO and the *Tombouctou Patrimoine* association organised two screenings of the films *Alwalidji* and *Le patrimoine, un allié pour la paix* followed by debates in schools and cultural centres during July and August 2025. One session took place during the previous reporting period (on 5 July at Mahamane Fondogoumo School) while the second one was organised during this reporting period on 8 August at the Issa Maiga

Agro-Pastoral Centre, reaching around 2,000 people including students, teachers, ATP members, traditional masons, and media, with a UNESCO Mali representative present.

81. *Partnership with the Timbuktu Cultural Mission:* A partnership contract was signed for an information campaign running until December 2025. Planned activities include recording and broadcasting awareness messages on local radios, hosting radio programmes on cultural heritage, and conducting digital campaigns via social media and web TV.

5. *Installation of signage on Protected Buildings*

82. In June 2025, UNESCO commissioned a study by a historian-archaeologist to gather key historical and cultural information on ten Protected Buildings in Timbuktu, including nine mausoleums and the Sidi Yahia Mosque. The study follows the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention and aims to guide interpretive signage to improve public understanding of the Saint's mausoleums and Sidi Yahia Mosque. It also seeks to promote heritage education among youth and support tourism revival in Timbuktu.

83. The study has been completed on 30 July 2025 and has provided detailed data on the official names, histories, and significance of each site, forming the basis for the signage content.

84. The production is within the responsibility of the ARMMT under the supervision of the Cultural Mission. A tender was issued for the design and installation of ten signage panels and ten plaques, with work planned for November to December 2025.

85. A local artist or artisan workshop will carry out the work under the supervision of a cultural heritage expert, following the study's technical guidelines to ensure accuracy and quality.

6. *Contribution to the rehabilitation and/or equipment of a cultural space in Timbuktu*

86. Following the reallocation of funds from individual reparation awards to collective reparations, the Chamber endorsed additional measures selected by the community, including an additional project aimed at contributing to addressing the moral harm suffered by the Timbuktu community. This project originally pertained to the rehabilitation of a cultural space in Timbuktu, namely the Ali Farka Touré Cultural Centre, in order for the local community to benefit from artistic performances and events.²⁴

87. The TFV hereby respectfully informs the Chamber of the adjustment with regard to this specific measure.

²⁴ See, e.g. February 2025 Decision, fn 13.

88. During this reporting period, the TFV was informed by the local authorities that the funding for the rehabilitation of Ali Farka Touré Cultural Centre had been secured through separate resources and that work on the rehabilitation had commenced. These efforts have been made as part of the Malian Government plans to hold the Artistic and Cultural Biennale (the country's largest cultural event) in Timbuktu from 18 to 28 December 2025. To prepare for this event, the Ministry of Handicrafts, Culture, Hotel Industry and Tourism, along with the Timbuktu Regional Governorate and Regional Council have initiated rehabilitation and equipment works at the Ali Farka Touré Cultural Centre, currently underway. Contribution to the rehabilitation of the centre through UNESCO, as it had been endorsed by the Trial Chamber, is therefore no longer needed. The costs for the works will be carried by the Malian authorities. By contrast, the immediate concern of national authorities is the equipment of the former Ahmed Baba Documentation and Research Centre's Hall, designated to host Biennale activities. The President of the Special Delegation of the Regional Council of Timbuktu (designated by the Ministry in charge of culture and the Governorate of Timbuktu to manage this measure) has seized the TFV through a letter sent to UNESCO on 4 September 2025. In this letter, an adjustment to the support measure to address these needs was requested, namely that the reparation programme supports the rehabilitation and equipment of the former Ahmed Baba Documentation and Research Centre in order for the community of Timbuktu to benefit from a second cultural space in Timbuktu. Considering the identical nature of the activities for both buildings and the capacity of the former Ahmed Baba Documentation and Research Centre to both enhance community resilience and cultural heritage protection, and address the moral harm suffered by the community of Timbuktu, the adjustment was approved by the TFV on 10 October 2025. The TFV also took into account that the implementing partner UNESCO supported the adjustment of the measure.

89. UNESCO will continue working in close collaboration with regional authorities to implement the adjusted measure, supporting community resilience and cultural heritage preservation.

V. SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES

90. During this reporting period, the TFV also carried out a number of supportive activities in Bamako and Timbuktu, namely (A) management of the feedback mechanism; (B) programme coordination with the implementing partners; (C) activities relevant to the closing ceremony, and (D) collaboration with the Malian authorities.

91. Furthermore, [REDACTED] (E). Other matters are addressed in the last part (F).

A. MANAGEMENT OF THE FEEDBACK MECHANISM

92. As reported previously, 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 2024,²⁵ to facilitate the interaction between the community of Timbuktu and the TFV.²⁶

93. During the last reporting period, a total of ten calls were received: two related to the *Al Mahdi* programme, seven to the *Al Hassan* case and one concerned the TFV's assistance programme in Mali. With regard to the two calls relating to the *Al Mahdi* case, both pertained to the Economic Resilience Facility. The first call related to delays in the disbursement of the first instalment to the 18 newly approved initiatives under this facility. As indicated in paragraph 48, the TFV verified the information and collaborated with CIDEAL to identify and implement appropriate solutions. The 18 initiatives received their instalment on 14 October 2025. The second call concerned clarification on the division of responsibilities between CIDEAL and the Bamako selection committee. The call was received on 27 October 2025 and the matter has been under review since that date.

B. PROGRAMME COORDINATION WITH THE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

94. Monitoring by the TFV of implementing partners is taking place 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.

C. CLOSING CEREMONY

95. As previously reported,²⁷ an official closing ceremony of the reparations programme was considered to take place before the end of 2025 in Timbuktu. This ceremony was intended to be organised in cooperation with the Government of Mali. As reported below, at the interministerial meeting organised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in September 2025, it was decided not to go ahead with the such a ceremony.

96. Despite not having a closing ceremony, a formal handover of all remaining collective measures in the presence of national authorities in Timbuktu, [REDACTED], is currently

²⁵ Thirty-first Update Report, 29 April 2024, ICC-01/12-01/15-474-Conf-Exp ("Thirty-first Update Report"), paras 94-96.

²⁶ Thirty-first Update Report, paras 94-96.

²⁷ See, e.g. Thirty-sixth Update Report, para. 68.

scheduled for [REDACTED], as reported in the next section on cooperation with the Malian authorities.

D. COOPERATION WITH MALIAN AUTHORITIES

97. Cooperation of the Malian authorities is essential from both an operational and programmatic point of view to ensure the delivery of the reparations programme, including in relation to the following aspects: (i) accessing programme sites; (ii) engaging with the communities; (iii) delivering reparations; (iv) ensuring the communities' ownership of the programmes; and (v) operationalising complementarity with the national programme of reparations.

98. Since 2017, the TFV has made considerable efforts to engage and collaborate with Malian authorities at both national and local (provincial and municipal) levels. At the national level, these efforts have involved the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion, Crafts and Culture, Religion, and Higher Education and Scientific Research, as well as the national Authority in charge of reparation (AGRV).

99. To foster coordination, specific steering groups and committees were set up at national and local levels to accompany and oversee the *Al Mahdi* reparations programme. These bodies meet exclusively in relation to the TFV's programme.

- At the national level, a steering committee was established at the request of the TFV by ministerial decision in 2022, issued by the Minister of Handicrafts, Culture, Hospitality Industry and Tourism, appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The committee, chaired by the same Minister, includes representatives of the relevant Ministries. In 2025, its composition was expanded to include the Ministry of Reconciliation and the AGRV;
- At the local level, a regional commission for the coordination and monitoring of the collective reparations in Timbuktu was established by the Governor in 2022. This body includes local authorities, regional directorates, and community representatives. In addition, local reparations committees in each of the sectors of Timbuktu were also established to facilitate community dialogue related to both the memorialisation and the economic resilience components.

100. Both the national steering committee and the regional coordination commission had previously recommended holding a high-level closing ceremony in November to showcase the programme and its impacts. To move forward with the operationalisation of this

recommendation, the TFV requested an interministerial meeting to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who agreed to convene it.

101. On 19 September 2025, an interministerial meeting was held in Bamako between the TFV and Malian authorities to discuss the closing ceremony of the *Al Mahdi* programme. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion and attended by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Handicrafts, Culture, Hospitality Industry and Tourism, as well as the AGRV. During the meeting, the [REDACTED] authorities also requested access to programme reports, *i.e.* to the update reports of the TFV to the Trial Chamber, which are currently only available publicly in English. Finally, the authorities informed the TFV of their intention to formally request the list of victims who received reparations in order to inform the national reparations programme and prevent possible duplication of reparations. Should such a request be formally conveyed, the TFV would refer the matter to the Trial Chamber for decision in accordance with Regulation 57 of the Regulations of the Trust Fund for Victims.

102. The interministerial group reaffirmed its continued commitment to ensuring the full completion of the *Al Mahdi* reparations programme. [REDACTED]

103. To advance discussions on oversight, the authorities proposed during the 19 September meeting that the TFV organises a workshop to brief the Minister of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion on the programme's activities and outcomes. The TFV has submitted a proposed date and agenda to the relevant ministries and is awaiting a formal response.

104. Given the cancellation of the high-level closing ceremony, the TFV proposed instead to organise an official handover of the reparations measures to the community of Timbuktu together with the Minister of Reconciliation, Peace and National Cohesion, and the Minister of Crafts, Culture, Hotel Industry and Tourism. This final handover would take place in Timbuktu [REDACTED]. A proposed agenda includes, among others, several key activities: [REDACTED], the inauguration of the Qaloum memorial in Kabara (memorialisation scheme), a masterclass with actors involved in rehabilitation and protection of the Protected Buildings (rehabilitation scheme), vernissage of the permanent exhibition (memorialisation scheme), and a local fair showcasing products and services developed by the 70 beneficiary organisations of the ERF (see Annex C to the present report).

105. The TFV also proposed to hold the fourth session of the national Steering Committee following the scheduled [REDACTED]. The TFV is currently awaiting an official response from the authorities.

E. [REDACTED]

- 106. [REDACTED]
- 107. [REDACTED]
- 108. [REDACTED]
- 109. [REDACTED]
- 110. [REDACTED]
- 111. [REDACTED]
- 112. [REDACTED]
- 113. [REDACTED]
- 114. [REDACTED]

F. OTHER MATTERS

- 115. [REDACTED]

IN CONCLUSION,

The Trust Fund for Victims respectfully requests the Trial Chamber to take note of the present report.



Deborah Ruiz Verduzco
Executive Director of the Trust Fund for Victims

Dated this 24th Day of November 2025

At The Hague, The Netherlands