



“From trial to success”

Women’s participation in the defense and security forces in Mali: a vehicle for trust

Illustrated Synthesis

October 2018

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DSFs

- KEY MESSAGES -



1 Beyond women's rights, a question of **peace** in Mali: having female personnel in the armed forces fosters **trust** between the DSFs and civilians (Ch. I)



2 A concept to be **deconstructed**: "Women do not have their place in the army" (Ch. I & IV)

The importance of including women in the DSFs

Societal conditions to include women in the DSFs



5 **Between respect and reject**: community buy-in is essential for the inclusion of women in the DSFs (Ch. I)



6 Opportunities exist but are not always seized: some women **lack self-confidence** (Ch. III)

Conditions to advance women's careers in the DSFs



3 Despite male dominance, the **doors of the DSFs are open** to women (Ch. IV)

Conditions to facilitate women's inclusion in the DSFs



4 "There is no **he** or **she** in the armed forces": equal chances does not translate into **equal conditions**. (Ch. II & III)

7 "They must make a choice": women in uniform have a hard time reconciling the **opposing expectations** of family and job. (Ch. III)



- RECOMMENDATIONS -

A
For a positive view of women in uniform...



B
For strengthened Government's efforts for peace...



C
For more applications to the DSFs by women...



D
For a more attractive integration in the DSFs for women...



E
For the application of Malian lessons by regional or international actors...



1
Facilitate a shared understanding of the **roles and responsibilities of the different armed forces**

2
Document and disseminate the **added value of women's participation** in the DSFs

3
Inspire integration in the DSFs through the showcasing of **women role models** from the DSF

4
Include all initiative for the **inclusion of women** in the DSFs in existing Government efforts

5
Mainstream gender in the **Security Sector Reform** process

6
Increase the **age limit for recruitment** from 22 to 26 years for all armed forces

7
Disseminate **information** related to the recruitment process via radio and in local languages

8
Create **synergies** between CSOs and DSFs, for example in the preparation of potential female candidates

9
Adapt the medical checkup process to the needs of women: **female doctors and protection of privacy**

10
Adapt **dormitories and other rooms** to the presence of female personel

11
Recognize the **importance of women's participation** for the implementation of the G5-Sahel Joint Force

12
Research the impact of the participation of **women in MINUSMA** contingents, identify lessons learned for Mali and beyond