

## RESULTS SUMMARY

### Protecting victims of slavery in Mali

Author: Danish Embassy in Bamako (2025)

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#### PROJECT

<i>Title:</i>	Fund supporting drivers of change (FAMOC), Phase II
<i>Partner:</i>	Centre d'assistance et de promotion des Droits Humains (CapDH)
<i>Country:</i>	Mali
<i>Period:</i>	2024-2027

#### CHANGE

FAMOC II has contributed to formalising the protection of the rights of people in Mali living in slavery through CapDH's successful advocacy to revise Mali's Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes to render slavery a punishable crime. CapDH's active participation in the drafting process has contributed to the inclusion of the repression of slavery and the protection of victims of slavery in the Codes, culminating in the promulgation of the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes by the transitional President of Mali in December 2024.

#### CONTEXT

It is estimated that between 200,000 and 2,000,000 people are held in slavery in Mali. Slavery has traditionally been descent-based in Mali. This has long been prohibited, but so far legal cases on slavery have been few and far between. According to the previous Penal Code, slavery and similar practices were not associated with any specific punishment. It is only recently that both civil society and the diaspora have engaged in anti-slavery advocacy, especially on social media.

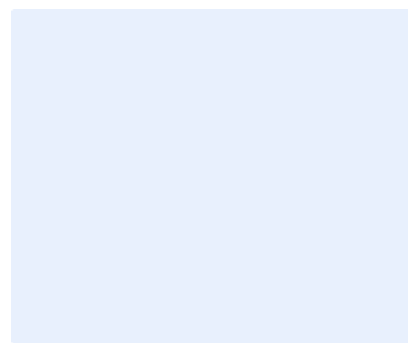
#### CONTRIBUTION

With Denmark's support through FAMOC II, the Malian NGO CapDH successfully contributed to influencing the process of revising Mali's Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes. CapDH contributed to this through the implementation of a structured and effective advocacy strategy, including workshops on slavery with stakeholders, carrying out effective advocacy actions in synergy with other stakeholders, and participating in the development of preliminary drafts.

#### IMAGES



The CapDH team. Photo: CapDH.



[See next page for more details](#) →

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ACTIVITIES

The overall objective of the FAMOC II programme is to promote a more peaceful and resilient society with respect for human rights. The NGO CapDH implemented a structured and effective advocacy strategy at many levels, aimed at the inclusion of the repression of slavery in the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes. The strategy involved the organisation of workshops on slavery with stakeholders; ensuring synergy between the advocacy actions taken by CapDH and other organisations; the development of an operational action plan and a technical advocacy note; active participation in the process of drafting the constitution and the preliminary drafts of the penal code and the code of criminal procedures, along with the development of a preliminary draft law for the fight against slavery.

### LESSONS

For CapDH, the lesson is that less project-bound support has made wider collaboration with other human rights partners possible. In this case, collaborating with other human rights actors on a carefully prepared and well-implemented strategy with a clear target can bring effective results. The programme was designed to include and engage traditional leaders and enslaved people, but was also carefully adapted to the non-constitutional reality in Mali. For Denmark, the lesson is that support to civil society - also in countries with non-constitutional regimes (military rule) - can still be effective. By continuing Danish support to civil society organisations through the FAMOC II programme, peaceful coexistence and human rights are promoted in Mali where insecurity is growing.

### EVIDENCE

The claim that CapDH has contributed to protecting the rights of people living in - or at risk of living in - slavery in Mali, is evidenced by their annual report. The report recounts CapDH's participation in drafting workshops and the national information and capitalisation workshop for the sustainability of the achievements in the fight against slavery and related practices along with other civil society organisations, state actors, embassies, international organisations and the United Nations in 2023. During this workshop, CapDH's contributions to the specific draft law against slavery and similar practices were highlighted by the National Director of Judicial Affairs and Seals, Mr. Mohamed Maouloud Najim. The contributions of CapDH and the other contributors are also well-reflected in the final texts of the Criminal and Penal Codes, which were promulgated in December 2024.

### DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Democracy and human rights
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	x
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-