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MINUSMA: PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT IN MALI

VIDEO

FOOTAGE OF NORTHERN MALI,
MINUSMA PEACEKEEPERS

UN SECURITY COUNCIL
ADOPTING A RESOLUTION

MAJOR GENERAL
LOLLESGAARD ON-CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

In the vast desert of northern Mali, soldiers from a distant land endeavour to maintain a fragile peace. In a country racked with conflict and instability, it's a daunting task. (14)

These men and women are part of a United Nations peacekeeping force called MINUSMA, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. (9)

Established by the UN Security Council in 2013 after separatist rebels attempted to take control of northern Mali, MINUSMA supports political processes and helps stabilize the country. (13)

MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL LOLLESGAARD:

(In English) M

“What we are focusing the most on is the protection of civilians. We are maneuvering, trying to ease the tension. We are engaging a lot with the key leaders and so on in order to ease

down the tension.” (13)

NARRATION

FOOTAGE OF PEACEKEEPERS
AT WORK

Close to 12,000 blue helmets are deployed in MINUSMA from more than 50 countries. 90% of them are based in the north. They are facing constant threats from military factions and terrorist groups. // Plus, the harsh climate and logistics challenges make their job even more difficult. (20)

Since 2013, MINUSMA has suffered more than 100 fatalities. // It is one of the most dangerous places to be a peacekeeper at the moment. (10)

But even amid the turmoil, MINUSMA supports grassroots projects that promote economic and social development in the communities. (8)

SHOTS OF “GOREYE-BEN”
WORKERS

One of the projects, run by an association called “GOREYE-BEN”, trains people with disabilities to manufacture and sell liquid soap. (8)

Launched in 2014 in the Gao region of Mali, the project has significantly improved the lives of disabled people there. (8)

CHARLEMAGNE ON-CAMERA

CHARLEMAGNE AG BALIKA: (In French) M
“In fact, I had a miserable life because before, I depended on my family. As soon as I stopped working, I became dependent on my family. In the morning when I woke up, my family had to feed me. Otherwise, it wasn’t right. I didn’t do anything. I just hung out, went out, chatted... I

was unemployed, so I depended on my family. But now I have this work. I thank God.” (25)

NARRATION

FOOTAGE OF “GOREYE-BEN”

Every day, the members of “GOREYE-BEN” work hard to produce 90 liters of soap in several colors – proving that their handicap is not an obstacle, and contributing to the development of the region just like others. (14)

NARRATION

FOOTAGE OF KIDAL

In Kidal, another region of northern Mali, MINUSMA is helping to supply electricity to the communities. (7)

Due to the ongoing conflict, schools remain closed and people in the region don’t have access even to basic services, including electricity. (9)

FOOTAGE OF MINUSMA
WORKING WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

MINUSMA works with the regional bureau of Kidal and an NGO called “Aford” to provide solar power kits to over 1,000 households. These kits, which consist of photovoltaic panels and batteries, provide a reliable source of electricity. (17)

MOHAMED ALY AG ALBESSATY: (In French)

M

MOHAMED ON CAMERA

“This project distributes solar kits to people in need which allow them to brighten their homes, the kids to go to school, and do homework because there is insufficiency or lack of electricity in Kidal.” (25)

FOOTAGE OF AICHA USING
SOLAR KIT

One of the beneficiaries is Aicha, a widow with teenage children. Electricity from the solar kit enables her to meet the needs of her family. (10)

AICHA ON-CAMERA

AICHA WALLET ABDOULAYE: (In French) F
“With electricity, we can turn on and charge our telephones. We can turn on light and can see better at night. Children can write and learn. But they don’t have school at the moment.” (20)

FOOTAGE OF PEOPLE ON
THE STREET

Little by little, the people of Mali are finding light and hope in the midst of uncertainties and insecurities. (8)

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UN LOGO

This report was produced by MINUSMA and Hisae Kawamori for the United Nations.