



MALI

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

01 August – 31 August 2016

Refugee returnees and host community members receive goats from UNHCR via partner Mercy Corps to support income-generating activities in the region of Ménaka. © Mercy Corps

KEY FIGURES

24

Urban refugees with specific needs received assistance to address chronic illnesses, protection and housing needs.

636

Malian refugees in Niger benefited from transportation assistance during their voluntary return to Mali.

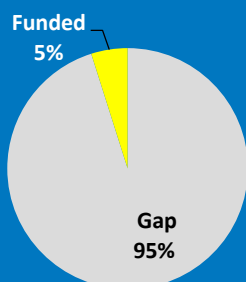
106

Protection incidents were reported in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu.

FUNDING

USD 49.2 million

requested for the operation

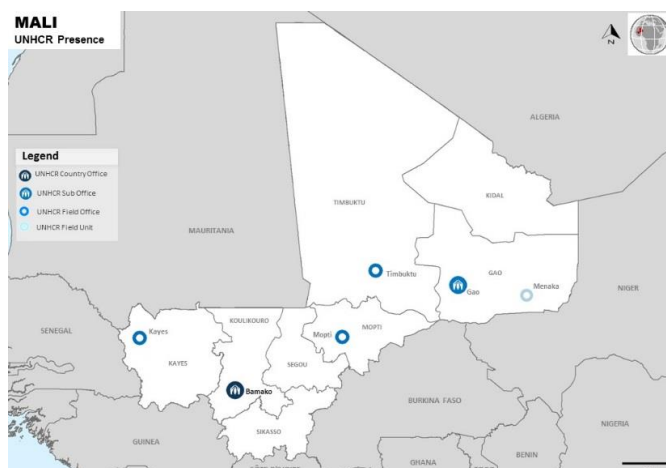


PRIORITIES

- 850 Malian IDP returnee households targeted to receive adequate and durable shelter
- 6,000 Malian refugee returnees targeted to receive a one-time cash-based assistance
- 2,500 Mauritanian refugees and local community members targeted to receive improved access to potable water
- 1,000 refugee children targeted to receive educational support

HIGHLIGHTS

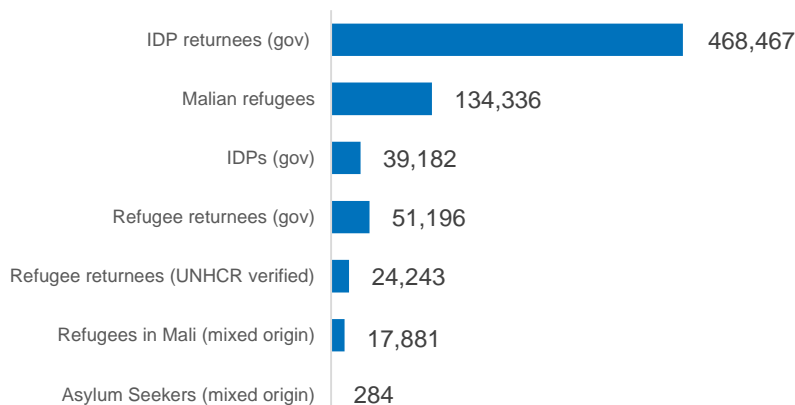
- UNHCR, through its partners Luxembourg Red Cross in Timbuktu and Stop Sahel in Gao and Mopti, have completed the construction of 303 mud shelters and 322 traditional shelters for IDPs, returned refugees, IDP returnees and



vulnerable host community members. This represents 67.3 percent of mud shelters and 80.5 percent of traditional shelters previewed to be completed by the end of the year. This shelter assistance aims to restore personal security, dignity and self-sufficiency for displaced households.

- In August, UNHCR's partner Association Malienne pour la Survie du Sahel (AMSS) identified 106 protection incidents among displaced and host community members in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu. Incidents relate to extortion, death threats, sexual violence, theft and robbery, among other issues.

Population of concern (July 2016)



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

UNHCR operates in a volatile security environment with threats of renewed armed conflict, terrorism, criminality and intercommunity violence affecting humanitarian access in parts of the north and centre. In the north, violations of basic human rights are reported and certain local populations continue to lack access to public services, documentation, water, and food security. Some 134,336 Malian refugees remain in neighbouring countries and 39,182 internally displaced persons in Mali are waiting to see whether conditions in their area of origin improve to enable them to return in safety and dignity.

Tensions remain elevated in the region of Kidal where pro-governmental forces GATIA (Groupe d'autodéfense touareg imghad et alliés) and elements of the former rebel CMA (Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad) clashed on 9 and 10 August leading to severe losses on both sides. High-level discussion to calm the situation have ensued in Bamako since the most recent clashes on 8 and 9 August. The level of violence reportedly decreased after these incidents but tensions remained high as both parties reinforced their positions in Kidal region. Ongoing insecurity has complicated efforts to assess humanitarian needs of displaced populations affected by the renewed armed clashes.

The threat of terrorism remains a serious concern in the north and centre of Mali. National and international security forces remain the target of most attacks, however international civilian personnel are at higher risk of hostage takings or kidnappings. The improvised explosive device (IED) threat remains high in most areas of the North. Between 5 and 7 August, an IED explosion in the northern region of Kidal killed one MINUSMA peacekeeper and injured six others. More recently, on 29 August an IED explosion near Anéfis killed two MINUSMA contractors and injured one other. The expansion of the terrorist threat to the central regions of Mopti and Segou remain a point of concern following the deadly attacks launched by Katiba of Macina (Front de libération du Macina) against Malian armed forces in mid-July. The Malian government has carried out operations in response to the attacks, but challenges remain in terms of the limited capacity and presence of armed forces.

In the capital of Bamako, social tensions have grown amid the discontent provoked by the dismantling of illegal shops and the protest of the arrest of a radio journalist on 15 August. On 17 August, demonstrations turned violent with one civilian dead and 18 injured, including four police officers, as well as damage to public and private goods.

The volatile security environment continues to destabilize local communities, jeopardize the protection of civilians, and prevent forcibly displaced persons from returning to their homes, while further threatening their access to already limited basic social services. The insecurity also compromises their ability to re-engage in socio-economic activities critical to rebuilding their lives. Access to persons of concern for the delivery of humanitarian protection and assistance in the north and centre of Mali has become a significant challenge for UNHCR and other actors. Frequent criminal attacks continue to be reported on several major routes in the North, particularly on the routes of Gao-Ansongo-Ménaka and Timbuktu-Goundam. In Timbuktu, Gao and Menaka where UNHCR has offices, the working and living conditions are affected by sporadic alerts and an aggravated feeling of insecurity. In addition to this, the rainy season has rendered certain highways difficult for road travel, impeding access to certain zones of intervention.

The need to uphold humanitarian principles is of utmost importance to counter the shrinking of humanitarian space necessary to conduct life-saving activities. Incorporating protection mainstreaming principles and promoting a meaningful access, safety and dignity for humanitarian aid remains key to humanitarian actors.

Achievements

Protection

Protection Cluster

- During the monthly Protection Cluster meetings in Bamako, Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu, the analysis focused on the protection situation in regions of the north and centre. A rise in human rights violations has been observed, aggravated by ongoing intercommunity tensions and the prolonged absence of state authorities.
- In Gao region, the Protection Cluster conducted a detailed analysis of civilian protection in the region of Kidal. Recommendations include an urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the peace accord and the reconciliation process, notably through the implementation of interim authorities, the cantonment and DDR processes, the organization of mixed patrols, the redeployment of administrative and security officials, and the organization of intercommunity meetings on reconciliation.
- On 5 August, the Protection Cluster in Timbuktu met the regional government authority overseeing the promotion of women and children to discuss ways to reinvigorate and reinforce the SGBV/Child Protection sub-cluster.

- **Protection Monitoring:** UNHCR's partner AMSS identified 106 protection incidents among displaced and host community members in the regions of Kidal, Gao, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu. The incidents relate to a range of issues including extortion, injuries, death threats, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests, robbery, theft and forced marriage, among others. Since the beginning of the protection monitoring program, 266 incidents have been collected. Several incidents were referred to partners for an urgent response, and incidents have also been shared with Protection Cluster members for review and response.
- **Voluntary Repatriation:** Over the month of August, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary return of 636 Malian refugees from Niger. Since January 2016, UNHCR has supported nearly 6,373 Malian refugees from Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania with their voluntary return to restart their lives at home.
- **Meeting with Returned Refugees:** UNHCR's Representative to Mali, Ms. Angèle Djohossou, met with 12 leaders among refugee returnees in the communes of Timbuktu and Salam. During the exchange, the returned refugees expressed needs in the areas of water, education, health and shelter. They also raised problems of assistance provision for returned refugees arriving from Algeria.
- **Registration:** In July 2016, the Direction Nationale du Développement Social (DNDS) registered 389 returnees from Bamako (1), Gao (64), Ménaka (6), Kidal (1), Ségou (71), Koulikoro (178) and Timbuktu (68). To strengthen the quality and timeliness of registrations, four motorbikes were made available to government authorities at the registration points in Niono and Nampala in Ségou region and at Gathi-Loumou in Mopti region.
- **Documentation:** Four births among urban refugees were registered; three out of four children have already obtained their birth certificates.
- **Persons with Specific Needs:** In Bamako, 24 urban refugees with specific needs (9 women, 15 men) received assistance through UNHCR's partner ACTED to address chronic illnesses, protection needs and housing needs.



UNHCR Representative to Mali, Ms. Angèle Djohossou, meets with refugee returnee leaders in the region of Timbuktu on 11 August. © UNHCR Timbuktu

- **Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV):** In Bamako, two new cases of SGBV were identified with the support of refugees committees leading to a total of 10 survivors identified and referred since the beginning of the year 2016. ACTED provided medical assistance and NGO Sinisanuman provided psychosocial aid for the most recent cases.
- **Community Mobilization:** In Bamako, 164 urban refugees (111 women and 53 men) attended three educational sessions on the theme of "Prevention against diseases and sexually transmitted infections."
- **Installation Assistance:** 12 urban refugee households in Bamako received installation kits consisting of cash assistance to support their recent arrival and support the coverage of basic needs.
- **Protection Challenges:** UNHCR in Timbuktu participated in the first ever reunion of humanitarian actors initiated by the Governor of Taoudéni in the new region of Taoudéni where authorities shared information about the protection challenges in the region and appealed to humanitarian organizations to provide assistance to vulnerable populations in that region.
- **World Humanitarian Day:** On 18 and 19 August, UNHCR commemorated World Humanitarian Day by providing financial assistance for radio spots aired on Studio Tamani Channel to raise awareness on humanitarian assistance. In addition, UNHCR held a ceremony in Bamako, participated in a forum with humanitarian actors in Timbuktu and showcased its activities at expositions in Gao and Mopti.



UNHCR Staff in Mopti showcase UNHCR's activities during World Humanitarian Day on 19 August. © UNHCR Mopti

Education

- **Secondary School Results:** Fifty-nine (59) out of 85 refugee students supported by UNHCR at the secondary school level in Bamako successfully completed their school year passing onto the next grade level. Twenty six (26) students will repeat their classes.
- **DAFI Scholarships:** UNHCR and its partners are currently in the process of selecting students who will be awarded the DAFI scholarship to pursue their tertiary education in Bamako. This scholarship, funded by the Federal Government of Germany, provides students with an opportunity to advance their professional training to pursue future employment opportunities. UNHCR provides scholarships for refugees at the tertiary level in universities and polytechnic institutions through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI).

Health

- UNHCR, through its partner ACTED, provided financial support to cover health insurance needs of 14 urban refugee households composed of 32 individuals. The healthcare registration will help refugees gain access to more affordable health care services to improve their health status.

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFI Cluster

- The Shelter Cluster focused on preparations for the Humanitarian Needs Overview/Humanitarian Response Plan 2017 whereby strategic orientations for shelter needs and response will be defined.
- UNHCR, through its partners Stop Sahel and Luxembourg Red Cross, continues to complete shelter activities to help vulnerable households among returned refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities return to safety and dignity with the privacy and security of a home. In total, 322 out of 400 traditional shelters previewed for 2016 have been completed in the regions of Gao (116), Mopti (26) and Timbuktu (180). In addition, 303 out of 450 mud shelters have been built in the regions of Gao (123), Mopti (70) and Timbuktu (110).
- In Mopti, the Direction Régionale Développement Social (DRDS) provided 10 returned refugees with livestock and NFI assistance in the district of Koro courtesy of UNHCR's advocacy efforts. In Gao region, UNHCR referred 13 returned refugees households to the Danish Refugee Council for NFI assistance in the commune of N'Tillit.

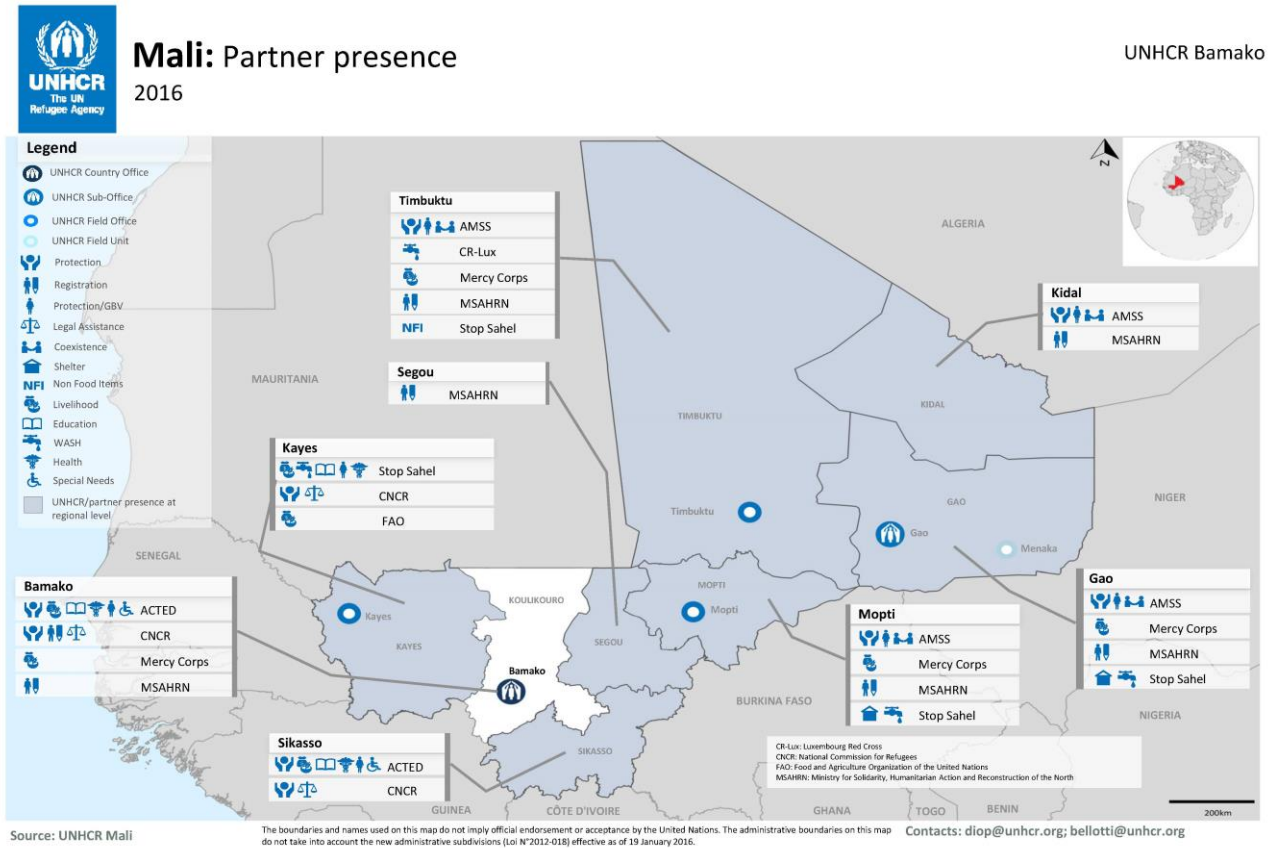


Mud shelter constructed for a returned refugee household from Niger in the region of Gao. © UNHCR

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- **Promoting Income-Generating Activities:** UNHCR, through its partner Mercy Corps, is supporting refugee returnees and host community members in the north of Mali to receive assistance for their income-generating activities in view of promoting a smooth reintegration and peaceful coexistence in their host communities.
 - In Gao region, 100 returned refugees and host community members have received financial assistance (100,000 CFA) to pursue micro income-generating activities, among which 14 are SGBV survivors. So far 23 out of 100 beneficiaries have received training to support the execution of their activities. In addition, 72 goats have been distributed to 64 beneficiaries, including returned refugees, IDPs, host community members in the communes of Gossi and N'Tillit to support their pastoral farming and agricultural activities.
 - In Menaka region, 36 goats have been distributed to 8 women's association reaching 32 beneficiaries including returned refugees, IDP returnees, IDPs and host community members to support their pastoral farming activities.
 - In Mopti region, 85 refugee returnees in the commune of Douentza received training income-generating activities including livestock fattening, small business and handicrafts. In the commune of Soumpi, district of Niafunké, a training on business management was carried out for 12 beneficiaries.
 - In Timbuktu region, 10 beneficiaries received assistance for their agricultural and pastoral farming activities in the neighbourhood of Abaradjou.
- **Vocational Training:** Two urban refugees will benefit from assistance to participate in a fashion training program courtesy of the social development government authorities in Bamako.

Working in partnership

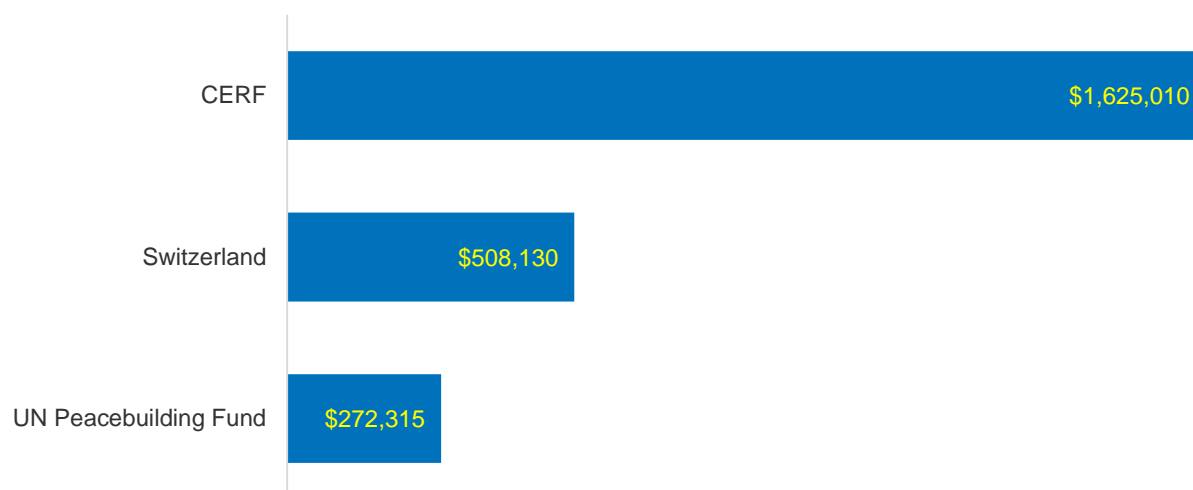


FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **USD 2,405,455**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to this operation.

Funding received in USD

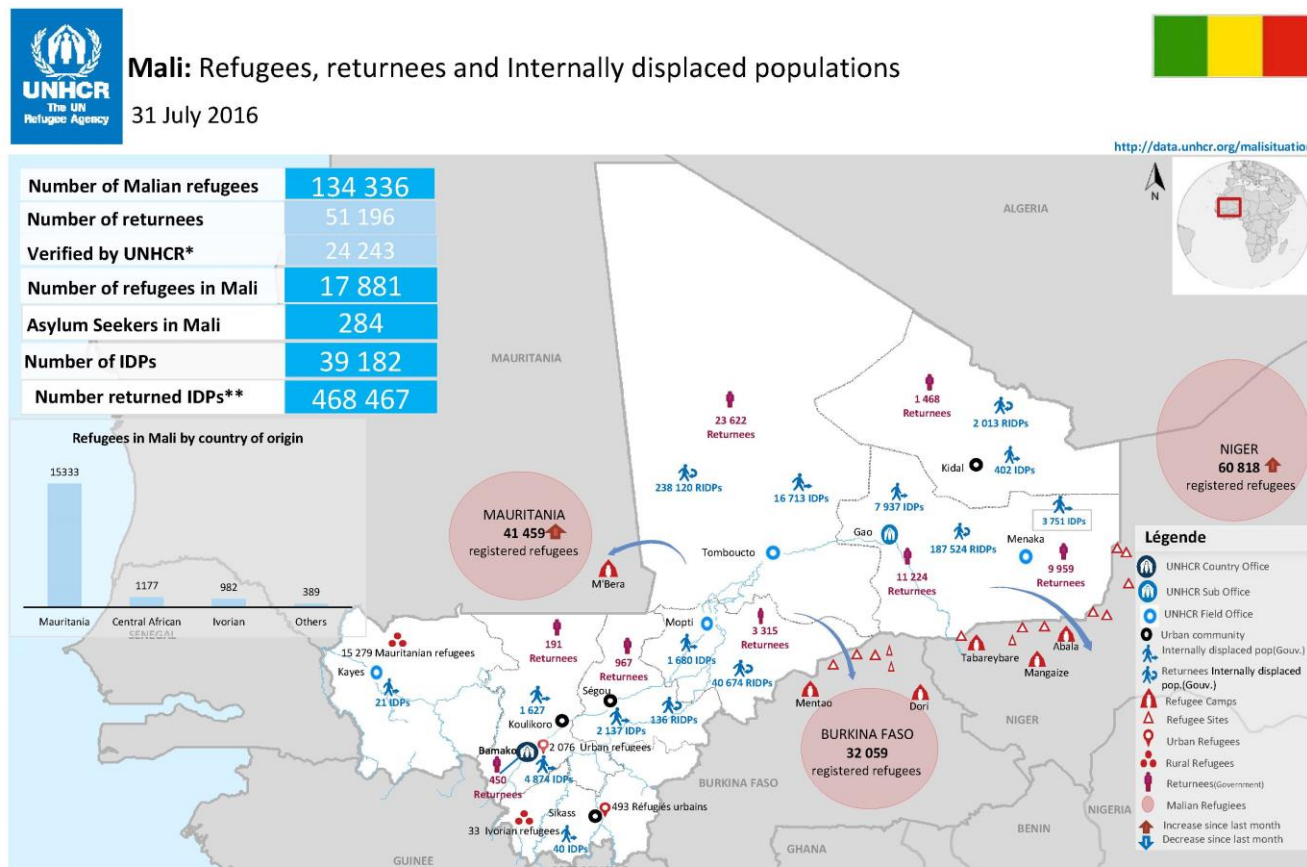


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ANNEXES

Mali situation map



* Burkina Faso's figures are May 2016

** No update since May 2016

Malian refugees and returnees verified (Sources: UNHCR)

Refugees in Mali (Sources: Government of Mali, CNCR)

Malian returnees and IDPs (Sources: Government of Mali, DND)

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Links:

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