



MALI SITUATION UPDATE N° 21 | AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2013

This update provides a snapshot of UNHCR and partners' response to the displacement of Malians in Mali and into Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger. The refugee response is led by UNHCR and is undertaken in coordination with the host governments.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of the end of September, UNHCR and partners are addressing the needs of **169,745 Malian refugees in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger**. The estimated number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) inside Mali reaches **311,300 according to the Commission of Movements of Populations**.
- **In Mauritania**, humanitarian activities in Mbera refugee camp were disrupted after an unidentified mob stole with more than 15 tons of food and domestic items on 5 September. Following this incident, humanitarian activities were temporarily reduced in the camp except in the key sectors addressing life-saving needs, such as health, nutrition, and WASH. Security around the camp has since been improved with the adoption of Standard operational procedures (SOPs) by UNHCR, UNDSS, local authorities and local forces. The humanitarian assistance has progressively resumed since end of September with the completion of the General Food Distribution on 25 and 26 September.

- **Preparing the facilitation of return of Malian refugees as long as conditions for safe and dignified return exist:**
In Mali, the fast-evolving situation in the north of the country, successful presidential elections, as well as expansion of political and humanitarian assistance promised to Mali to re-establish peace and development have raised some hope for the return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees. While some displaced people have spontaneously returned to northern Mali to their homes in the regions of Gao and Timbuktu as well as spontaneous return of refugees have also been reported. Others continue to move back and forth between the displacement sites and their place of origin. Precise figures have not yet been established. Even through there have been important progress in the return of state

authority and the overall environment in Mali, considerable challenges remained, including continued insecurity and recurrent incidents in Northern Mali, weapons proliferation, fear of persecution and reprisals for some ethnic groups, lack of adequate infrastructure for basic services. UNHCR teams met from 9 to 14 September in Bamako to assess the prospects for and conditions of return. Recommendations were made to develop a regional strategy to facilitate the expected return of thousands of Malian refugees currently hosted in neighboring countries in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger who voluntarily will opt for this solution. As security remains volatile in the main areas of origin of the Malian refugees, UNHCR would only facilitate return of Malian refugees as conditions for safe and dignified return exist. UNHCR will ensure that returns will take place on a voluntary basis, in security and dignity, and based on accurate information on areas of returns, including on security and access to basic services and humanitarian assistance. Areas of return are currently being assessed. Profiling and mapping exercises of the 36 sub-districts (174 localities) in North of Mali identified as priority zones by the Humanitarian Country Team have started on 23 September. Exercises are conducted by UNHCR and IOM as member of the Commission Movement of Population. Results are expected by end-October and will be shared with refugees in neighboring countries.

- **In Mali**, the new Malian President, M. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, was sworn in on September 4 in Bamako. The newly formed Malian Government announced that the first round of legislative elections will take place on 24 November and the second round on 15 December. Security situation in the North of Mali deteriorated by end of September with some multiple terrorist attacks reported in Kidal and Timbuktu and fighting between the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and Malian forces.



Zineba 80 years old, Malian refugee in Mauritania decided to back home in Timbuktu with her three grand-children after the first round of the presidential elections. UNHCR / H. Caux/ August 2013.

More detailed operational information can be found on:

**UNHCR web portal for the Mali situation: <http://data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation/regional.php>

**Mali emergency page: <http://www.unhcr.org/emergency/50597c616-5093d81bc.html>

**UNHCR public website: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f79a77e6.html>

PROTECTION, LIFE SAVING ASSISTANCE NEEDS AND RESPONSE

- **Level III registration process is in process in Burkina Faso:** UNHCR together with the Government are conducting the level III registration of Malian refugees in camps and settlements, as well as in urban settings. A total of 20 registration agents from the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CONAREF) have been trained prior to the launch of the biometric registration of Malian refugees, which first started on 19 August in the urban area at the refugee community center of Ouagadougou, and continued in the San-nioniogo refugee camp, Bobo- Dioulasso and Mentao. The exercise will continue in Goudoubo refugee camp in October, where sensitizations of refugees are currently underway and will continue in the Sahel region for refugee residing outside of camp. Actual figures stand at 49,975 individuals, pending the completion of the exercise in December 2013.
- **In Niger, the Level II registration was completed in August 2013** and continuous registration is now taking place in all refugee camps and refugee locations. At the end of September, some 49,601 refugees were individually registered. In parallel, a campaign to verify the effective physical presence of refugees in the camps has started in September.
- **Extending protection monitoring activities in North of Mali:** To reinforce the protection monitoring capacity and support peaceful coexistence activities, the agency established a sub-office in Gao and is in the process of opening a sub-office in Timbuktu. UNHCR is about to complete new sub- agreements with additional partners to also extend its protection monitoring and other protection related activities in Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu areas. To date, UNHCR partners reached over 350 persons on awareness campaign on human rights in Gao, Segou and Timbuktu and a multi-sectorial mission assessment has been completed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) partner in Gossi, in Timbuktu area, to monitor the needs of IDP returnees.
- **In Mali,** through the Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) centers in Bamako, Segou and Mopti, Norway refugee council partner (NRC) have informed more than 1, 072 persons on civil documentation and access to basic services in their displacement areas and some 171 vulnerable displaced persons have been supported in obtaining or replacing their civil documentation. In addition, some 18 local authorities were trained in issuing civil status document.



A refugee has her finger prints taken during the registration level III operation in Sag-nioniogo refugee camp. H. Reichenberger/ UNHCR/ August, 2013.

SEXUAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

In Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger, UNHCR efforts in SGBV prevention focused mainly on community sensitization, improving response, protection mechanism and referral procedures for survivors through training sessions, capacity building.

In Mali, some 16 trauma centers have been established which are providing psychosocial counseling to survivors in Segou, Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu and since August in Kidal. To date, a total of 1,489 persons, including 879 women, have been reached through sensitization campaign implemented by GREFFA partner. In addition, radio debates on SGBV prevention have been co-animated and some 245 broadcast awareness messages on SGBV (in Bamabara, French, Songhai and Tamashek) have been broadcasted on radio stations in Segou, Diabaly, Timbuktu. To extend identification of survivors and strengthen the response on legal assistance, a new sub-agreement has been signed with "Association des Juristes Maliens".



Training of security personnel stationed in the camps of Sag-Nioniogo, Mentao and Goudoubo in Burkina Faso. UNHCR/ August 2013/ Burkina Faso.

CHILD PROTECTION

In Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger, child monitoring and reporting mechanisms are being reinforced. Burkina Faso and Niger attended a regional workshop in Dakar on best interest determination of children and reviewed referral protection mechanisms and actions plan.

In Burkina Faso, some 1,839 children (including 934 girls) participated in recreational activities and child protection activities in the seven child friendly spaces in Goudoubo refugee camp. The Sag-nioniogo refugee camp has received its first child-friendly space run by Terre des Hommes.

In Niger, some 75 women have participated in focus group discussion on children abuse and negligence, while 198 young girls received information on sexual health reproduction.

In Burkina Faso, UNHCR and partners have trained **some 36 security officers in the three refugee camps** regarding UNHCR Code of Conduct, International Human Rights Law and SGBV.

In Niger, some 23 teachers from primary schools have been trained by UNHCR partners in Abala refugee camp in order to better prevent early and forced marriage.

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EDUCATION

Preparing the 2013-2014 academic school year: In 2012-2013, enrolment of school age children, especially girls, remained low, between 40 percent in Burkina Faso, 41 percent in Niger and 43 percent in Mauritania, notably due to the fact that children are kept for domestic chores, despite awareness campaign. Some of the factors are Measures to increase attendance and enrollment of school aged children are being reinforced for the next academic school year 2013-2014 through the rehabilitation and construction of additional classrooms for pre and primary school and reinforcement and equipment of local public structure for secondary school.

In Burkina Faso, school mapping and education “door to door” surveys have started since August in the refugee camps to better understand the reason on the non-enrollment of children, needs on the material assistance, adapt strategy and awareness campaign to promote education. This exercise also allowed to sensitize parents on the importance of sending their kids to school. In Mentaou camp, the construction of four new pre-schools has been completed.

In Niger, PLAN partner identified some 465 children that could benefit from the second chance class and 1,000 children that could be registered in the child friendly spaces in Tabareybarey camp. In addition, literacy classes started in September for 60 refugees aged between 14 to 49 years old, including 30 women.

WASH (WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE)

In Burkina Faso, additional boreholes are necessary in Sag-nioniogo camp to increase the availability of water that stands at 8.5 liters per persons and per day. The construction of a water tank is underway.

In Niger, the availability of water stands at 13 liters per persons per day. To improve water and sanitation, an agreement was signed with Qatar Red Crescent for the construction of three additional small water systems, additional 1,000 latrines and the distribution of hygiene kits in Abala, Mangaize and Tabareybarey refugee camps. In Intikane and Tassalit hosting areas, construction of water supply and rehabilitation of deteriorated bladders’ platforms ended in September and benefitted both to refugees and local communities.

In Mauritania, the availability of water reached 26.5 liter per person per day in Mbera camp. Every week, over 18,500 persons are sensitized by some 137 hygiene and volunteer promoters, through awareness campaign to hygiene promotion, used of water and prevention of waterborne diseases.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Malaria prevalence dramatically increased during the rainy season throughout the Sahel region. To prevent malaria cases, partners distributed mosquito nets to beneficiaries in the camp in the three country of asylum and conducted awareness sessions on malaria risks. As a result, the prevalence rate of malaria decreased from 10.69 percent to 6 percent in Mauritania end of September.

In Mauritania, the level of malnutrition has significantly decreased in the camp between 2012 and 2013. In June 2012, there was a 20 percent for global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate and 13.2 percent in January 2013. In June 2012, there was a 5.9 percent severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate and 3.2 percent in January 2013. Efforts continued to be deployed by improving the existing nutritional programs in the 12 operational nutritional rehabilitation centers and through the wet feeding programme. Awareness campaigns are also conducted by community to inform refugees on the risks of malnutrition, on the good practices to be adopted and on the importance of nutrition programs existing in the camp. A SMART nutrition survey will start in October 2013 in Mbera camp to monitor the nutrition situation.

In Niger, the first joint assessment mission (JAM) started on 17 September for one week to assess the living conditions in refugee sites and ways to improve level of protection and assistance of persons of concern. The mission report will help elaborate joint WFP-UNHCR strategies towards refugees for the next months.

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Catch-up classes ended September 20 in Intikane hosting area where 140 children, including 65 girls benefitted from this programme. UNHCR/ September 2013/ Niger.

In Burkina Faso, in collaboration with UNICEF a total of **50 educational actors** (including teachers, refugee leaders and public education officers) have been **trained to prepare the return of primary courses in October.**

In Mauritania, UNHCR and partners in coordination with the Malian Ministry of Education prepared the on-going examination of 122 students who will pass their secondary cycle and baccalaureate examinations in October.

In Burkina Faso, thanks to the family planning and reproductive health sensitization campaigns, 86 percent of births were assisted (against 66 percent in June- July).

In Mauritania, some 4,709 children (including 2,333 girls) aged between six to 24 months benefitted from WFP Corn Soya Blend (CSB+) and oil distribution as part of the blanket feeding programme.

Cash food voucher / transfer initiatives in Burkina Faso and Niger: UNHCR together with WFP developed cash food voucher / transfer pilot projects both in Burkina Faso and Niger in order to better adapt food assistance to the current needs of the refugee population.

In Burkina Faso, the cash food transfer project has been launched at the end of August in Sag-nioniogo refugee camp and includes distribution of food ration and transfer of cash, for an amount of USD 7 per person and per day. The project has been expanded in September in Goudoubo, Bobo-Dioulasso and Mentaou, and benefitted to **37,788 Malian refugees**.

In Niger, the cash food voucher project started in April in Mangaize camp and enabled nearly **9,200 refugees to buy food in the market instead of receiving food rations**. The project may also be expanded in all refugee camps in Niger wherever possible.



AG Mohamed Alhoussini (blind), Malian refugee in the camp of Mangaize, expressing his satisfaction regarding to the cash voucher program. UNHCR/ September 2013 / Niger.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

In Mali, a cash transfer programme has been initiated to support IDPs beneficiaries in a period of six months to rent a home for their family. Several thousands have been assisted through the cash transfer programme. In addition, UNHCR and partners supported more than 700 households with provision of non-food items and distributed additional tents, tarpaulins to beneficiaries in response to the torrential and flooding.

In Burkina Faso, since the beginning of 2013 year, a total of 6,479 shelter kits in both Mentaou and Goudoubo camps have been distributed by NRC partner. A census is well on-going to monitor shelter distribution and identify needs.

In Niger, the “One Stop Shop (Guichet Unique)” initiative, jointly implemented by UNHCR, National Commission for Eligibility (CNE), Save the Children and Cadev, has been launched and allows more than 7,000 urban refugees to have direct access to all services in a single location.

In Mauritania, UNHCR and LWF partner continued the construction of semi-permanent structures for UNHCR Post, registration center, and a community center for youths and women. To date, a total of 9,567 tents installed, 9,176 semi-permanent shelters built. Construction of the four windbreaks by four groups of women in the camp is underway. It will help to protect collective cooking spaces against the risk of potential domestic fires.



Aerial view of One Stop Shop in Niamey: UNHCR/ C. Arnaud/ September 10, 2013

LIVELIHOOD

In Mali, UNHCR and NRC partner have started to set up income generating activities as petty trade, sewing, dyeing, in Bamako, Mopti and Segou. It is expected that over 1,250 people will benefit from this assistance. To date, a total of 950 beneficiaries have been selected and trained.

In Burkina Faso, some 250 beneficiaries have been trained by IEDA-Relief on income generating activities in Bobo-Dioulasso, Goudoubo and Sag-nioniogo.

In Niger, 14 women have been trained on income generating activities in tannery by ACTED partner and some 250 young refugee pursued their vocational training in mechanics and sewing in Abala refugee camp.

ENVIRONMENT

In Burkina Faso, UNHCR, in coordination with local authorities and partner have launched a reforestation project which will improve the environment of the host population. To date, HELP partner has already reforested 25 hectare of land in the Sahel, including in the refugee camp of Goudoubo itself where 900 seedlings have been planted.

In Mauritania, SOS Desert partner completed the distribution of 12,417 plants to promote reforestation in and around the camp by refugees to reduce the environmental impact of the presence of refugees.

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FUNDING UPDATE

**USD 144 million
required**

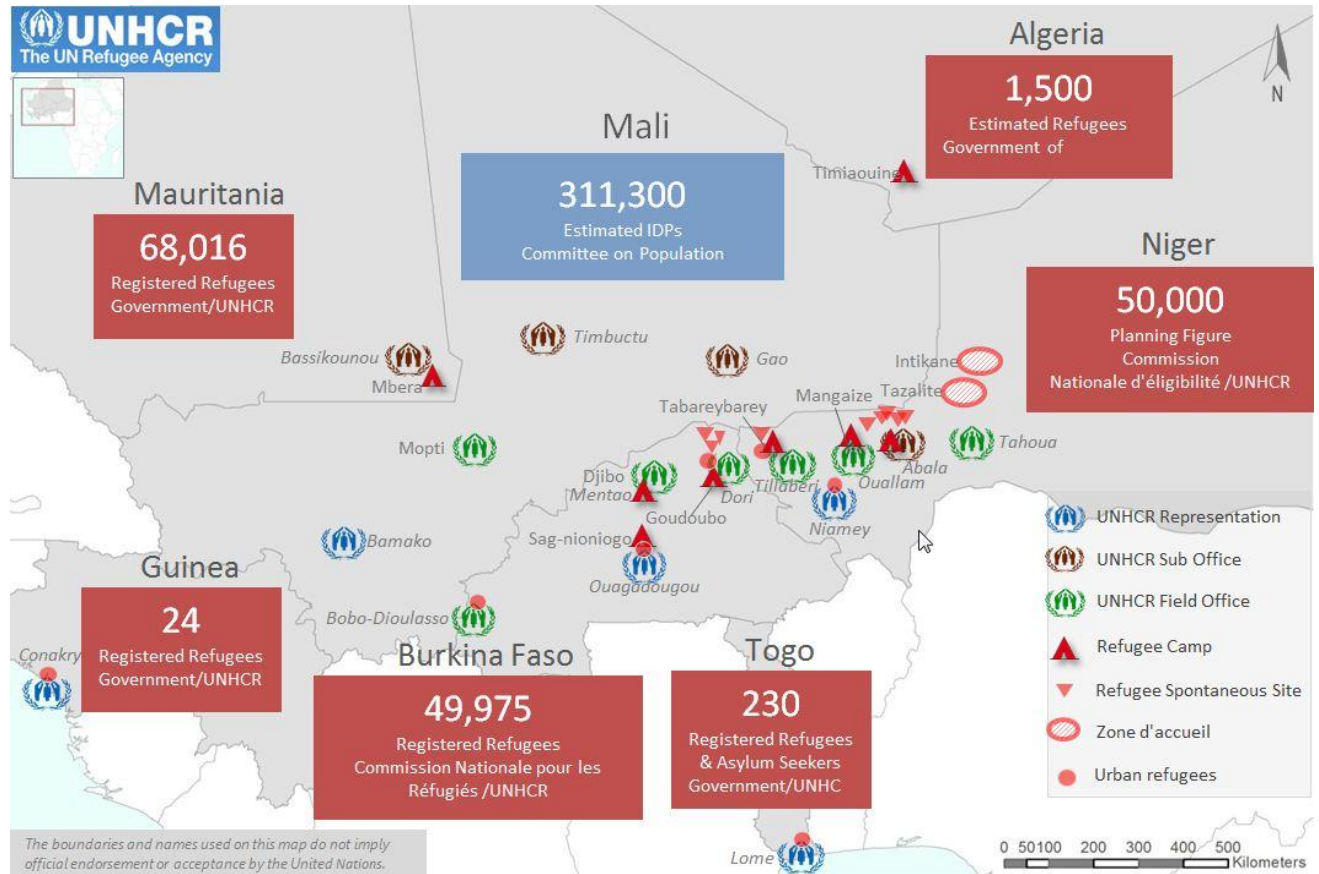
UNHCR's total financial requirements for the Mali Situation for 2013 stand at USD 144 million for the existing refugee and IDP operations in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger and Mali.

**38 percent of
funding gap**

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have thus far committed pledges amounting to USD 89.2 million to respond to this crisis.

UNHCR and its partners are appealing for urgent financial support from donors for the Malian displaced as the amount raised represents 62% of the budget to date.

MALI SITUATION: Regional map and figures as of 30 September 2013



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