

UNHCR Mali Situation Update

no 6 | 12 June 2012

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

Detailed operational information can be found on:

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

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

Malian Refugees by Country of Asylum as at 12 June 2012

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others of Concern*	Source
Niger**	41,667	2,255	CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	65,009	-	CONAREF/UNHCR
Mauritania	67,764	-	Government/UNHCR
Togo	20	-	Government/UNHCR
Guinea	44	-	Government/UNHCR
Total	174,504	2,255	
Grand Total			176,759

*Includes 2,255 returning Niger nationals.

**The figure is based on initial ongoing registration and subject to change.

Malian IDPs

as at 15 May 2012

Population	Total number	Source
IDPs	148,467	Government/WFP

Contributions Received as at 12 June 2012

Contributions (USD)	
Austria	331,126
Brazil	300,000
Canada	1,500,000
CERF	5,839,939
Denmark	1,802,127
European Union	2,649,007
France	657,984
Germany	662,251
Luxembourg	258,398
United States	7,000,000
Private donors	23,095
TOTAL	21,023,837

In addition, UNHCR has received contributions towards its operations in West Africa and Mauritania presented in its Global Appeal from Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, CERF, Denmark ECOWAS, the European Commission, Finland, France, Switzerland, the United States and the UN Population Fund.



Niger / High Commissioner Antonio Guterres makes a joint visit to Niger with WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin. The two heads of agencies visited areas in the Ouallam and Maradi regions deeply affected by an unfolding humanitarian crisis, including villages impacted by food insecurity and a camp hosting Malian refugees who fled the turmoil in their country. / UNHCR / H. Caux / May 2012

UNHCR Financial Requirements – (in million USD)

Country	ExCom approved Budget (with adjustments)	Supplementary requirements	Revised total budget
RO Senegal*	50.6	123.4	174
Mauritania	7.8	30.3	38.1
TOTAL	58.4	153.7	212.1

* The budget for the UNHCR Regional Office in Senegal covers operations in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The supplementary financial requirements presented in this Appeal include Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal.

Highlights

- The current political instability in Bamako and the insecurity in northern Mali continue to trigger influxes of refugees into Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. Close to 20,000 Malian refugees have arrived in neighboring countries since mid-May.
- Borders in all four countries (Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania, and Mali) remain open. There are no reports of refoulement or people being turned away from the borders to neighbouring countries. However, the general security situation in the region remains a challenge for UNHCR and all humanitarian actors.
- Altogether, the crisis has now displaced close to 320,000 people. As of June 4, 170,553 Malians have found refuge in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger. Additionally, 148,467 men, women and children are displaced inside Mali.
- UNHCR together with WFP recently launched a regional emergency operation in response to the specific food needs of hundreds of thousands of people who have fled conflict in Mali. The regional operation aims to assist 300,000 internally displaced (IDPs) and 255,000 Malians who have crossed the border in neighbouring countries.
- UNHCR launched a revised appeal providing financial requirements for Malian refugees and internally displaced (IDPs) until the end of the year. The strategy and activities have been defined in close coordination with partners on the ground and cover the needs of 440,000 people. The total financial requirements for the "Emergency Response for the Mali Situation" now amounts to USD 153.7 million.
- A general lack of funding for the Mali situation continues to seriously hamper operations on the ground. While UNHCR is focusing on immediate life-saving activities, in many refugee camps and settlements, critical gaps exist in water and sanitation and basic aid. Refugees are often living on daily water supplies below "emergency standard". As well, the sanitary conditions in most camps are a recipe for epidemics, especially considering the coming of the rainy season.
- Although UNHCR and its partners are working relentlessly to provide protection and assistance to the refugees, the magnitude of the emergency, the number of displaced people and the serious conditions they are in -- many are suffering from severe malnutrition -- requires an urgent increase in the overall response to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe. Funding is urgently needed to improve conditions for displaced Malians.

Protection response

In Mali, the **protection cluster** continues to meet bi-monthly. At the end of May, CRS and Protection Civile completed the registration of IDPs in Bamako. As at 24 May the total number of IDPs registered in Mali amounts to 148,467. The total number of IDPs has gone down slightly as until the recent completion of the **registration process** previous figures were partly based on an estimation of IDPs in Bamako. A new Protection Working Group on protection of IDPs "in case of no-access" has been set-up. The **SGBV sub-cluster** (UNFPA) has completed the sub-cluster working plan. They elaborated and validated the messages for prevention of SGBV and the orientation processes for victims. The information is being spread through broadcast media such as The National Radio, the Radios of Nearness, etc. The SGBV referral and reporting systems have also been validated. UNFPA is awaiting 5,500 "Kits Dignite" for the rape cases and 2,880 post-operative and anesthesia kits.

In Niger, in view of the insecurity at the border areas, a relocation process of refugees from five spontaneous sites in the Ayorou region started at the end of May. As of June 8, 2608 Malian refugees have been transferred to the new Tabareybarey camp from the sites of MBeidou, Tinfagate, Tidirgalene, Gadouel and Intadabdab. Since the beginning of this **relocation exercise**, groups of refugees have been reluctant to move from their various sites to the new camp. A **sensitization campaign** to convince refugee leaders to join the transfer operation is being run jointly by UNHCR, IOM and the local authorities. UNHCR works hand in hand with IOM and Plan Niger for both the transfer operation and the new camp management. Throughout Niger, open-dialogue sessions with refugees have been organized by UNHCR to sensitize them to the dangers of **cross-border movements**. In Abala camp, different **committees** for food distributions, women, youths and night vigil have been put in place. Training will be organized by the gendarmerie for the vigils while sensitization about the internal rules on camp management started the week of May 28. Documents on the internal rules on camp management will be disseminated to refugees and field implementing partners. A donation from the Finnish government to UNICEF will be used for providing **education** for camp based refugee children for the term of

June to September 2012. Priority will be given to children in Abala camp which counts approximately 1,000 pupils. On June 6, International Rescue Committee started to work with the Women committee to undertake an assessment on **sexual and gender-based violence** in Abala camp. Weekly coordination meetings with partners continue to take place in the Ayorou, Mangaize, and Abala camps and as well as bi-monthly coordination meetings in Niamey.

In Burkina Faso, the **relocation operation** to the official refugee sites carried out jointly by UNHCR, CONAREF and local actors continues. On 30 May the High Commissioner of Oudalan province and UNHCR conducted a joint mission with the aim of **sensitizing refugees** on the necessity to join official sites. A Sensitization campaign on the same issue is ongoing. Many refugees in the unofficial sites are willing to move, however, their chiefs of factions are reluctant. **Mentao** refugee camp which is composed of 3 sub-sites (North, Centre and South), has now been **consolidated into one official site** with different communities keeping a distance of 500 meters between them, as agreed with the leaders. The camp now counts 8,820 refugees. The distribution of family ration cards is being carried out "by the unit" in official sites and "with fixing token" in unofficial ones. **Food distribution** is being done jointly WFP, CONAREF and UNHCR. IN Burkina Faso the rainy season has started recently and is already making access to Gandafabou and Fererio refugee camps more difficult.

In Mauritania, refugees continue to arrive at the pace of **200 to 300 per day**. UNHCR and its NGO partner ALPD continue the level 1 registration of the refugee population and the relocation of refugees from Fassala to Mbera. As of 9 June the total number of Malian refugees in Mauritania amounts to 67,764. All refugees are settled in Mbera refugee camp. Individual assessments and home visits are being carried out to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable among those arriving in Mbera camp are given due attention. As of early June, UNHCR and Intersos have identified 4,027 **people with special needs** including 897 female head of households, 456 mothers younger than 18 years old and 241 separated children. UNHCR and UNICEF are working to develop an appropriate response strategy for each category, including vulnerable children. The **registration of children of school age** continues. As of 3 June, 3,392 refugee kids have been enrolled in the four primary schools established in the camp. However, 77.4% of children in primary school age remain without access to school. UNHCR and Intersos are meeting with refugee representatives to raise their awareness on **SGBV**. During the week of 28 May, WFP completed the **rehabilitation of the airstrip of Bassikounou**. Plans are in place for a test flight before 15 June. This will improve substantially the transport of aid to Mbera camp. During the week of 21 May, UNHCR met with representatives of the villages of Mbera and of the refugee population. The aim of the meeting was to **promote conflict prevention and peaceful cohabitation** between refugees and the host community. This initiative is much appreciated by both communities who see dialogue as a way to avoid misunderstandings, especially as topics for discussion do exist. Following this initiative a coordination mechanism between the two communities was established. The first meeting of the mixed committee -- which includes ten refugees and ten members of the host population -- took place on 30 May in the village of Mbera.

Life-saving assistance

UNHCR continues to provide refugees and the host population in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania with basic assistance including water and sanitation, primary health care, education, shelter and core-relief items. However, much more needs to be done to ensure that refugees receive assistance according to humanitarian standards, or to even reach "emergency humanitarian standards" in all aid spheres.

In Niger, in both Abala and Mangaize refugee camps, assistance continues to be provided in the areas of food, water and sanitation. In Abala camp 8178 persons (1526 household) received **food assistance** during the monthly food distribution which started on 26 May. Each refugee received the equivalent of a daily ration of 500 grams of Maize, 100 grams of vegetables and 20 grams of oil, a daily allowance of 2,313 kilo calories. In Mangaize refugee camp, Plan Niger carried food distribution for pregnant and lactating women, as well as plumpy nuts and vita meals for underweight children. As well, **NFIs** were distributed to 1,987 families. Two medical posts have been set-up for **malnutrition rehabilitation** through distribution of super cereals, cooking oil and plumpy nuts for children under two years and pregnant and lactating women. **Water** requirements in Niger are approximately 800 cubic meters/day for an allocation of 15 litres per pers./day. Refugees in Abala camp are the only ones receiving the equivalent of 15litres/person/day at present. The volume of water delivered to all sites is still very insufficient. The gap is approximately 50% of the needs. World Vision is working at putting in place a mini network of water supply in Abala camp. Negotiations are also ongoing for another installment of the same type of water supply network for the Mangaize refugee camp where two boreholes have been constructed by OXFAM and World Vision. In the Ayorou, Abala and Tillia regions, water continues to be trucked by Plan Niger. The **sanitation** sector also continues to lag behind. With the incoming rainy season and the threat of cholera, MSF is giving it increasing attention. As of the end of May, in Abala Camp 122 **latrines** are functional. A sensitization **campaign on hygiene** is being handled by Plan Niger, OXFAM, MSF and World Vision. A **polio vaccination campaign** for the refugees in the Tillia area was completed during the week of 21 May. Due to the

lack and limited access to health structures in the refugee sites in the Tillia region, UNHCR is working with AKARASS to establish **mobile clinics** in order to provide medical care to refugees in these areas.

In Burkina Faso, despite ongoing work in the area of **water and sanitation**, the situation also remains very critical. Between 14 to 20 May, the drilling Company FASEM-CONSULT, hired by UNHCR, completed 6 wells with positive results: 2 in Damba, 2 in Fererio and 2 in Mentao sites. During the same period, 80 latrines and 15 emergency showers were completed by Oxfam in the Damba site. Oxfam also completed 35 latrines pits in Mentao site. Work is still ongoing for the construction of latrines in Fererio by HELP and CRS. As of 11 June, refugees in Fererio site are receiving the water equivalent of 7lts/person/day. Refugees in Mentao site are receiving approximately 9lts/person/day, and those in Gandafou are receiving 8lts/pers./day. At the exception of refugees in Damba site who are receiving an allocation of 12lts/pers./day, all others are receiving daily water allocation which are below UNHCR emergency standards of 10lts/pers/day and well below the standard of 20lts/person/day in stable conditions. The same goes for the situation of **latrines** and **showers**. Currently in Fererio site, a gap of 387 latrines exists to reach the “emergency standard” of 40 persons/latrine. While gaps are smaller, 48 and 78 respectively, the latrine situation in Mentao and Gandafou also needs much improvement. In Damba site, the humanitarian standard of 40 persons/latrine has been reached. In terms of showers, gaps of 387, 124, 32 and 78 exists in Fererio, Mentao, Damba and Gandafou sites respectively. New geophysical studies are being performed in Gandafabou and Mentao refugee sites for the eventual construction of **boreholes**. The improvement of the water and sanitation in critical and requires more funding. With the arrival of the rainy season this is a major concern. On 30 and 31 May, in Fererio site, the protection unit distributed 490 **family cards** (for 3341 persons). On 30 May the unit supervised the food distribution in Mentao refugees’ site. A total of 1,301 families (7705 persons including 2452 children) benefited from food provided by WFP. On 5 June the unit supervised the food distribution process in Damba refugee site. 235 families benefited from the operation for a total number of 1447 persons (including 400 children). Through monitoring at Gorom-Gorom medical centre (in the north-east of the country close to the Niger border) and in collaboration with MSF, information on the overall **health situation** in seven (7) refugees sites is available.

In Mauritania, from 18 May to 2 June, three **relocation convoy** transporting respectively 1,996, 986 and 2,105 refugees from Fassala to the refugee camp of Mbera were organized. During the same period, UNHCR and implementing partner ALPD also organized a convoy of 127 Malian refugees from Nouakchott to Mbera refugee camp. **Water and sanitation** also continues to be a major concern for refugees in Mauritania’s Mbera camp. As of June 3, 34 distributions points, including 258 taps have been installed – refugees are still receiving a daily water allocation of approximately 8 liters/person. A total of 660m3 of water is being supplied everyday -- 560m3 goes to refugees and 100m3 to the host population. UNHCR’s partner Solidarités International continued the construction work for Mbera’s second **borehole**. On 10 June, Oxfam started the Geo-physical work for the construction of two additional boreholes in Mbera camp. The situation regarding **communal latrines** is also critical. It has improved slightly with a ratio that now stands at 142 persons/latrine. UNHCR carried out an assessment of **Primary Health Care services**. As of 3 June, four medical centers (1 run by the MoH and 3 by MSF/B) and one rehabilitation center for the screening and the treatment of severe acute malnutrition are operational. As of 3 June, 553 malnourished children regularly follow the nutrition programme at the Ministry of Health centre, under the supervision of UNICEF. Additionally 734 children are enrolled in the nutrition program managed by MSF Belgium. The **vaccination campaign against measles and polio** organized by the Ministry of Health, with the support of WHO and UNICEF, was completed as of 27 May. The official results of this campaign are soon to be shared by the District Medical Officer. Nevertheless, UNICEF preliminary results indicate that 82% of refugee children between six months to 15 years of age were vaccinated against measles and 88% of refugee children up to five years of age were vaccinated against polio. During the same period, always with the support of UNICEF, the Ministry of Health launched a **campaign for the distribution of vitamin supplements** and mebendazole. The campaign will cover the whole region of Hodh el Charghi and will benefit Mbera camp refugee children between the ages of six months to 15 years old. UNICEF conducted a training on screening and monitoring of malnourished children for the medical staff of the health center of Mbera. On 26 May, UNHCR and the CSA completed the distribution of the 15 days **food rations** recently provided by WFP for 56,000 individuals. 54,140 refugees (97%) received their rations. Thousands of families continue to be exposed to bad weather and protection risks due to the lack of **tents**. As of 3 June 9,406 tents have been installed in Mbera refugee camp. A gap of 3,983 tents still remains.

Financial situation

In light of the recent development in Mali and the continuous influx of Malian refugees in neighboring countries, UNHCR has **revised its response plan and financial requirements** based on providing emergency aid to **440,000 Malian refugee and IDPs until the end of the year**. The revision was led by UNHCR and elaborated in close consultation with partners on the ground. The total financial requirements for the “Emergency Response for the Mali Situation” now stands at **USD 153.7 million**. Activities in the revised appeal do not cover the needs of Malian refugees in Algeria as the Government in place is addressing their needs.

UNHCR's total financial needs for the Mali crisis in **Mauritania now amounts to USD 38.1 million**. In **Burkina Faso Niger and Mali**, UNHCR's additional financial requirements **have increased to USD 123.4 million**. The total supplementary requirements for the Mali situation now stand at 153.7 million and UNHCR's total revised budgetary requirements for the countries responding to the Mali situation amounts to USD 212.1 million for 2012.

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have committed **pledges amounting to USD 21 million** to respond to this crisis but remains very concerned with the overall funding shortfall. Currently **only 13%** of the total financial requirements has been raised.

UNHCR and its partners are **calling for urgent financial support** for the Malian refugees and displaced.

UNHCR presence

Niger	Niamey, Ouallam
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou, Dori
Mauritania	Nouakchott, Bassikounou
Mali	Bamako

Working with partners

UNHCR is coordinating its life saving activities with the following partners:

Niger	Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité (CNE), Ministries of Defense, Interior and Health, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, OCHA, MSF (CH) (water/sanitation) UNAIDS, ICRC, CADEV (warehousing/transportation of NFIs), IOM (relocation), Islamic Relief (tent installation/site clearing), AFRICARE, ACTED (camp management/Water), PLAN NIGER (WASH), OXFAM (water).
<p>Coordination mechanisms in Niger: UNHCR is part of the existing coordination mechanisms at the ministerial level, technical level and amongst UN/NGO partners. A UN cluster system is in place involving the Government and the national early warning body (<i>Système de Relèvement Précoce, Système d'Alerte Précoce</i>). The Humanitarian Coordinator proposed a review of the working approaches with the ad hoc committee attached to the Prime Minister's Office and to continue to work closely with local and government authorities in the refugee affected areas.</p> <p>UNHCR is considering establishing sector working groups on education, health nutrition, and WASH, drawing from representatives in each of the existing cluster group to deal specifically with refugees.</p>	
Burkina Faso	CONAREF, <i>Comité National des Réfugiés</i> under the umbrella of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CONASUR (Social Affairs Department), WFP, WHO, UNICEF, FAO, Burkina Faso Red Cross Society (Shelter/NFI distribution/sanitation), Christian Relief and Development Organisation (CREDO), and SRDO (food and core relief items distribution, community services), Oxfam (WASH), MSF France (Water trucking), <i>Église des Assemblées de Dieu</i> (water), <i>Vétérinaires du Monde</i> , <i>Médecins du Monde</i> Spain (Health), <i>Médecins du Monde France</i> (Health), HELP (water).
<p>Weekly coordination meetings are held by UNHCR with the Government, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, ADRA, ICRC, ECHO, MSF and <i>Terre des Hommes</i>. Joint missions are undertaken with partners.</p>	
Mauritania	Ministry of Interior, Commissioner for Food Security (non-food items and food distribution), UNICEF (education), UNFPA, MSF Belgium, Lutheran World Federation (camp management), Solidarités International (water/sanitation), Intersos (community services), WFP/UNHCR (food), ALPD (protection monitoring activities, management of a reception center in Fassala and transport of refugees from Fassala to Mbera).
<p>Weekly coordination meetings: The meetings are co-chaired by the National Coordinator appointed by the Ministry of Interior and UNHCR and include UN agencies, NGOs, members of the national civil society and donors.</p> <p>Daily coordination meetings: The local authorities, UNHCR's partners- ALPD, the Lutheran World Federation, Intersos, Solidarités International, WFP, UNICEF, MSF Belgium, IFRC, and CRM attend the daily coordination and the thematic meetings on Health and Wash chaired by UNHCR in Bassikounou.</p>	

Mali	Ministry of Territorial Administration, OCHA, MSF (Health).
Coordination mechanisms in Mali: The UN cluster system is activated for IDP protection. The protection cluster has two sub clusters: child protection (UNICEF) and gender-based violence (UNFPA). It meets once every two weeks except in emergencies.	