MALI SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE

September – November 2015

KEY FIGURES

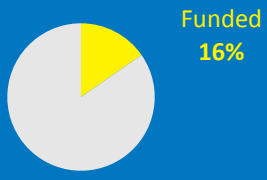
139,187
Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger

61,920
IDPs in Mali

38,053
Total number of returnees, as of 31 October 2015

FUNDING

USD 111.2 million
required by UNHCR for the situation in 2015



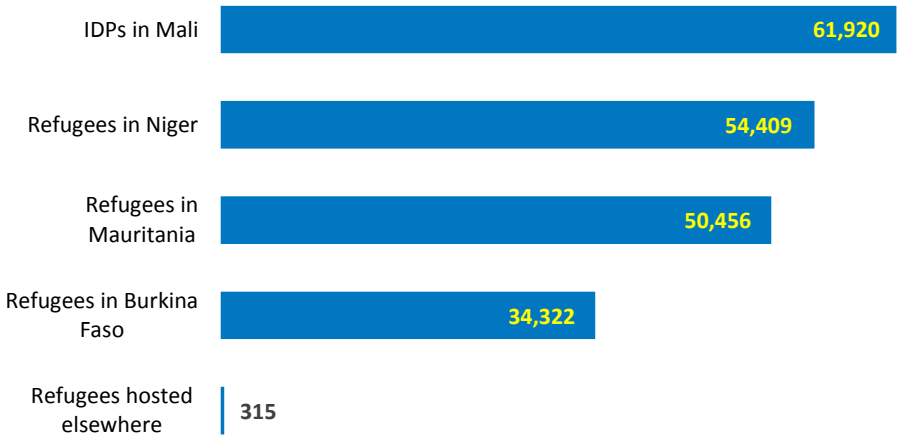
PRIORITIES

- **Mali:** continue to support returnees with cash assistance; advocate for adequate access to education of all returnee children.
- **Burkina Faso**: provision of individual documentation; maintenance of health centers in the camps.
- **Mauritania:** strengthen self-reliance; promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host population.
- **Niger**: maintenance of a response capacity for new arrivals; acceleration and scaling up of cash-based initiatives; reinforcement of the insertion of refugees in host areas.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Mali, internally displaced persons and communities affected by the conflict continue to struggle to access food, water, health care, education, protection and livelihood opportunities. For many families, UNHCR and other humanitarian organisations are the sole providers of protection and essential services.
- Almost four years after the conflict erupted, nearly 139,000 Malian refugees remain in neighbouring Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger. More recently, around 4,000 Malians have fled to Niger.
- UNHCR continues to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees living in camps and host communities in the three asylum countries, focusing on self-reliance and peaceful coexistence.
- In line with its regional strategy recently developed for 2016-2017, UNHCR is advocating to ensure refugees have access to national public services, particularly education and health as well as opportunities for employment.
- Critical funding shortfalls jeopardise UNHCR operations in Mali and in the region. Without additional donor contributions, UNHCR will be forced to significantly and immediately limit the number of people supported with essential protection and assistance.

201,107 persons of concern

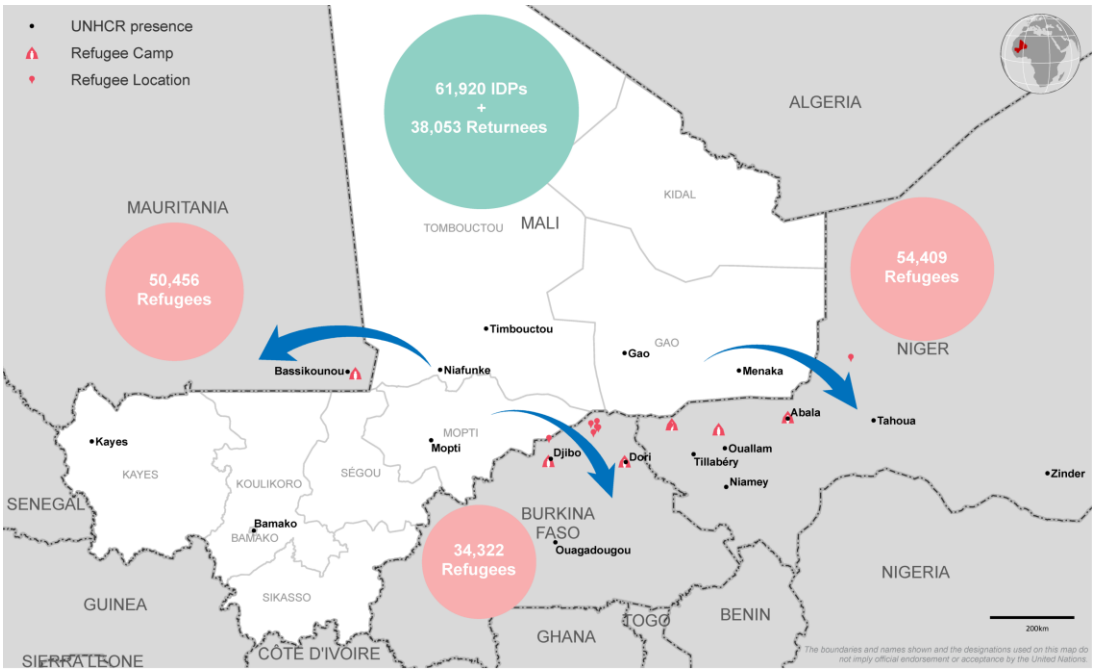


RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

Overview. In early 2012, with the outbreak of violence in northern Mali, tens of thousands of families fled their homes to seek security and stability in southern Mali and refuge in neighbouring countries. Despite the Peace Accord signed in June 2015 between armed groups and the Government of Mali, the security situation in northern Mali remains fragile, sparking new waves of displacements to nieghbouring countries. Niger now hosts the highest number of refugees, the majority (60 per cent) living in the camps of Abala, Tabareybarey and Mangaize, while the rest reside in the two refugee hosting areas (Intikane and Tazalite) and in urban centres (Niamey and Ayorou). In Burkina Faso, 70 per cent of refugees are hosted in two camps, namely Goudoubo and Mentao, while the rest live in host villages in Oudalan and Soum Provinces and in urban areas of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso. In Mauritania, registered refugees are hosted in M'bera camp located in a remote, arid region close to the border with Mali. Meanwhile, there are 61,920 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali, whilst over 38,000 refugees have returned to their place of origin since December 2013.

Mali Situation: Refugees, Returnees and IDPs (as at 31 October 2015)



Humanitarian access and new displacements. In Mali, as a result of insecurity, limited humanitarian access continues to affect the provision of assistance, particularly in Gao and Timbuktu regions, where the movements of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of aid have been restricted. Humanitarian organizations have to reguarly suspend their activities and relocate staff whilst administrative services remain limited. Despite such operational challenges, UNHCR and its partners have managed to sustain assistance and protection to IDPs residing in conflict-affected areas. In Niger, new arrivals rose throughout the year, spiking in October and early November when an estimated 4,000 Malians crossed the border into Mali from the sparsely populated east, bringing the total number to a record high of 54,000 registered refugees in early November compared to 47,449 refugees residing in Niger at the start of the year. In Burkina Faso, between September and October, 167 new arrivals were registered while in Mauritania, 486 new arrivals were registered since April 2015.

Funding. With a steady reduction in UNHCR's funding for its operations in Mali and the region, the continuous influx of Malian refugees presents a major challenge. The departure of self-financing NGOs and the phasing-out of support by other UN agencies from countries such as Mali and Niger has severely strained the capacity of host communities to absorb this additional population. The latest influx comes at a time when UNHCR has planned to support repatriation of refugees or helping them to become self-sufficient. Prior achievements, including high school enrolment in Niger and relatively good nutritional status of refugees, are now under strain because of the new arrivals and shrinking funding.

2016 Plans. At a time when multiple global emergencies increasingly strain donor resources, UNHCR's objective in 2016 will be to continue ensuring access by people of concern to efficient, effective and sustainable protection mechanisms and basic assistance. In this regard, UNHCR in Mali and the region will aim in the next two years at leveraging its operations to open windows of opportunity for self-reliance, promote access to national services and systems, while also working to facilitate voluntary repatriation and maintain peaceful coexistence between the refugees and the host communities.

Protection

MALI

Achievements and Impact

- Support and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remained a key priority. As a result of various workshops and awareness-raising sessions on SGBV conducted by UNHCR and its partner Handicap International, a greater number of SGBV survivors were identified, that is 85 cases over the reporting period in the regions of Mopti, Gao, and Timbuktu. These cases include rape, psychological, physical and sexual abuse, deprivation of resources and forced marriage. Appropriate support and assistance were provided in the form of psychosocial and legal counseling, as well as medical care.
- In support to the reintegration of returnees, UNHCR launched, in partnership with Mercy Corps, a cash assistance project targeting 16,000 returnees. Through this programme, each person of concern receives XOF 63,800 per adult (USD 110) and XOF 29,000 (USD 50) per child. Whilst 1,133 returnees were assisted thus far, the lack of banks and financial institutions and security concerns in most of the areas remained a challenge.
- Through the provision of guidance and training to local protection committees in northern areas, UNHCR in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council, was able to ensure remote protection monitoring. Members of the protection cluster in Mopti and Timbuktu were also trained on rapid evaluation of protection and on how to use protection monitoring tools at the community level.

BURKINA FASO

Achievements and Impact

- In an effort to mitigate protection risks associated with discrimination, UNHCR increased the number of individuals with legally-recognized documentation, and assisted the government of Burkina Faso in handing over ID cards to 5,368 refugees. Some 288 birth certificates were provided to refugee parents whose children were born in Burkina Faso.
- UNHCR continued to provide capacity-building sessions on international protection to members of the police forces working in the refugee camps. Some 350 police officers and/personnel took part in four sessions conducted in the capital and within the camps.

MAURITANIA

Achievements and Impact

- A new Protection and Community Services Office was inaugurated in M'bera refugee camp in September. Since its opening, 507 individual cases were addressed, consisting of family reunion, assistance, new-born registration and protection issues.
- UNHCR, through its partner Intersos, continued to fight SGBV and early marriage in the camp. Between September and November 2015, 77 victims of SGBV received psychosocial assistance. Each month, an average of two cases of early marriage were successfully prevented.
- Through its partner Intersos, UNHCR continued to provide special assistance to more than 5,000 people with specific needs in the camp through home visits and tailored interventions, such as individual counselling and physical support.

NIGER

Achievements and Impact

- Following a new influx of an estimated 4,000 Malians, registration missions were undertaken in October and November. The majority of refugees came from rural areas in the regions of Menaka and Anderaboukane. At Inates, where more than 2,000 Malians recently arrived, female refugees cited violence between the Idourfane and Daoussak tribes as reasons for fleeing.
- Following discussions between UNHCR and the Director-General for Civil Registration and Refugees, a decision was made by national authorities to change the attestation renewal procedures and extend the validity to 12 months. UNHCR and national authorities are now taking appropriate steps to renew the refugees' attestation.

A Malian refugee father and daughter, Mohammed and Fadimata, with their refugee attestation in Niamey. ©UNHCR/ B. Siddo

Education

MALI

Identified Needs and Gaps

- For the 2015-2016 school year, the education cluster reported that 282 schools remained closed in the north and the centre of the country as at the end of November, representing 17 per cent of the total number of schools in conflict-affected areas. This situation is mainly due to insecurity and the lack of teachers. UNHCR continued to advocate for access to education, in particular in the region of Timbuktu.

MAURITANIA

Achievements and Impact

- In M'bera camp, more than a hundred teachers resumed their activities following the start of the Mauritanian 2015-2016 school year in October. Some 4,500 students are currently enrolled and attending classes at the six primary schools in the camp.
- More than 300 adults, mostly women, continued to attend literacy courses in Songhai, Arabic and Tamasheq languages in the camp. The number of adults attending literacy courses increased by 11 per cent from August to November, with a current total number of 352. This activity is part of UNHCR's self-reliance promotion programme carried out by its partner Intersos.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Education remained a challenging sector in the camp. As a response to low school attendance, UNHCR strengthened its efforts in mobilizing families to send their children to school. In October, 1,500 families were reached through sensitization activities.
- Adult illiteracy still represents a challenge for the community as a whole and for the management of income-generating activities, 124 persons of concern were sensitized on the importance of attending literacy classes. However, the demand for literacy classes goes well beyond the funding available for this activity.

NIGER

Achievements and Impact

- In line with UNHCR's regional strategy, efforts were made jointly with the Regional Directorate for Education to integrate refugee children into the national education system. In the refugee hosting area of Intikane, 1,197 students, including 526 girls were enrolled in school in the local town of Tahoua, while 211 students were enrolled in the school at the refugee hosting area of Tazalite. In addition, following several awareness raising sessions regarding the importance of education and school enrollment, Tabareybarey camp recorded high levels of school enrollment in September (196 new students in preschool, including 119 girls; 657 students at the primary school including 339 girls; 30 refugee students at the local high school, including 5 girls).
- Refugees children in the capital Niamey who either had their education interrupted or had not had the opportunity to study can now access and attend the 'second chance school' established jointly by UNHCR and the government.

Health

BURKINA FASO

Achievements and Impact

- A four-year action plan is being designed in consultation with Government counterparts to gradually integrate Malian refugees into the public health system. In the meantime, 8,840 curative consultations were conducted in health centres in the camps accessible to both refugees and host communities. However, in Mentao camp, due to funding constraints, two of the three health centres closed, while the third health centre is being extended to support the increasing number of consultations. Plans are being made to gradually base health care provision on vulnerability criteria.
- 1,685 refugee and Burkinabe children living in nearby host communities were vaccinated against polio in Goudoubo and Mentao camps.

MAURITANIA

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continued to ensure medical evacuation for secondary and tertiary medical cases that cannot be treated in the camp. Evacuations are available for both refugees and members of the host population in M'bera surroundings. During the reporting period, 64 patients were referred to Nema and Nouakchott hospitals.

NIGER

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, developed a comprehensive strategy for integration of Malian refugees into the public health care system in Niger. This approach is being successfully piloted in both Mangaize and Aballa refugee camps. In addition to monetary support for consultation fees, additional staff incentives are provided and funded by UNHCR. Additional medicines were provided to the local health centres, as well as an ambulance and fuel for the transport of patients.
- Over the reporting period, nine awareness-raising sessions were held on reproductive health (5 in Intikane for 124 participants and 4 in Tazalite for 38 participants) and 10 on the prevention of malaria and the use of mosquito nets (in Intikane and Tazalite with 1,932 people participating).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is no presence community integrated health centre between the town of Ayorou and the camp of Tabareybarey. As the health centre in Ayorou does not have the capacity to absorb the additional population, and in view of the long distance from Tabareybarey camp to the town, a parallel health service is needed in the camp.

Food Security and Nutrition

BURKINA FASO

Achievements and Impact

- In October, WFP and UNHCR provided food assistance to 31,000 Malian refugees, achieving 96 percent of planned beneficiaries. A joint mission between WFP, UNHCR and the Government of Burkina Faso, took place between 8 and 14 November in Bobo-Dioulasso to identify priorities and appropriate modalities of assistance for urban refugees. Data analysis is ongoing.

Identified Needs and Gaps

- The November general food distribution (GFD) to refugees in Goudebou and Mentao camps, and to urban refugees in Bobo-Dioulasso, was postponed to early December due to a lack of funding which delayed food procurement. This delay in distributions will likely affect their nutrition and food security and may force them to adopt negative coping strategies over the next few months.

MAURITANIA

Achievements and Impact

- Between September and November, three general food distributions (GFDs) were conducted – refugees received a food ration of about 1,800 Kcal per day made up of rice, salt and oil. GFDs are carried out by UNHCR through its partner the *Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire* and in collaboration with WFP. To verify the quantity and quality of food items distributed, food basket monitoring is conducted by UNHCR through its partner *Action Contre la Faim*.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to fight malnutrition in M'bera camp, particularly among children as well as pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. At present, the rate of global acute malnutrition remains at 9 per cent, just below the 10 per cent threshold. All cases were rapidly identified and addressed by UNHCR and its partners through the Intensive Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (CRENI) and Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers for Severe Malnutrition (CRENAS). Malnutrition mostly concerns recent arrivals.

NIGER

Achievements and Impact

- A WFP/UNHCR JAM was carried out in Tabareybarey and Mangaize camps (28-30 October) and the Intikane refugee hosting site (3-5 November), to assess the food and nutritional status of refugees, and to analyze the effectiveness of operations. Data analysis is ongoing and results will be released shortly.

Water and Sanitation

MALI

Achievements and Impact

- Access to water remains a critical issue in northern Mali, causing tensions with host communities. To improve social cohesion, four water points were rehabilitated in the region of Mopti (Hombori, Haire, Boni and Garmi) between September and November, providing access to nearly 11,500 people and livestock animals. Four wells were built in the region of Timbuktu (Cherriffene Rhergo, Kel Oldy-Ouest, Imminégatha, and Gombatou) and two water points were rehabilitated by UNHCR's partner, ACTED, in the region of Gao (Tilatane and Tinadjarof) providing access to water to 4,600 people. Awareness-raising sessions on hygiene and sanitation were also conducted, reaching nearly 500 people in the region of Mopti and nearly 350 people in the region of Gao.

BURKINA FASO

Achievements and Impact

- On 30 September, Malian refugees living in Goudoubo camp witnessed a storm affecting the water supply system. To mitigate an increased prevalence of water-borne diseases, 10 awareness-raising sessions were carried out and targeted around 200 refugees. Mitigating measures were designed and the water and sanitation response is being improved. Refugee committees in charge of water management were supported through the provision of tools and capacity-building sessions. The technical capacity of the water and sanitation refugee committees are being improved thus contributing to increase the sustainability of the water and sanitation facilities.

MAURITANIA

Achievements and Impact

- In M'bera camp, water is supplied by UNHCR through five boreholes equipped with submersible pumps. The five boreholes have a maximum production capacity of approximately 30 litres of water per person per day that is above the standard 20 litres per person per day. Refugees have also access to potable water through 590 water taps located in all sections of the camp. It is estimated that 80 per cent of water is consumed for domestic purposes, while 20 per cent is used for gardening, livestock and other self-reliance purposes.
- Beyond ensuring water system maintenance on a regular basis, UNHCR launched a new water improvement system through the installation of a device for chlorine distribution in three water boreholes. This action aims at optimizing water system functioning and maintenance.
- With regard to sanitation, 2,342 semi-permanent communal latrines (22 persons/latrine) and 2,666 communal showers (22 persons/shower) are operational in the camp. After the completion of 10 new public wash areas in October, 92 wash areas are now available in the camp.

NIGER

Achievements and Impact

- In November, 466 refugees in the area of Tazalite participated in two sensitization sessions on the correct use of water, water-borne diseases, and the prevention of animal waste entering water bladders.

Shelter, Non-Food Items

MALI

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, UNHCR continued to carry out shelter rehabilitation. Since September, UNHCR and its partner ACTED rehabilitated 285 houses in Gao and 31 in Mopti. In November, 25 houses were rehabilitated in Timbuktu. This was in addition to 95 nomadic tents distributed in October 2015 to 85 refugee returnees and 10 IDP families. A workshop was also facilitated for 15 returnees in Dourgouma on shelter rehabilitation techniques and maintenance.
- In October, non-food items (NFIs), including kitchen sets, buckets, jerry cans, clothes, sheets, and soap, were provided to 21 households in Konna (region of Mopti), including nine local households and 12 refugee returnee households, to help improve their basic living conditions.

BURKINA FASO

Achievements and Impact

- A storm experienced in Goudoubo camp damaged shelters and numerous infrastructure. In response, traditional emergency shelters were repaired and 1,070 durable shelter kits (including poles, ropes, mats, plastic sheets and tarpaulins) were distributed, including 400 by the Norwegian Refugee Council.

NIGER

Achievements and Impact

- As part of the 'Urbanization Project,' UNHCR continued to assist local municipalities to create the conditions necessary to legally access land and housing. UNHCR continued to support municipalities so they can develop new areas of serviced land appropriate for building. In Ayorou (Tabareybarey) and Abala, this process is supported by UNHCR and managed by government rural engineers and local authorities.
- In the last quarter of 2015, in Mangaize camp, cash assistance replaced the distribution of NFIs, shelter materials, soap and other hygiene products. Under this scheme, XOF 10,000 or approximately USD 16.50 per month per household is being provided thereby giving autonomy and choice to the refugee households on how and on what to spend their money. As a result of the success of this form of assistance, UNHCR plans to scale it up in 2016, availability of funds permitting, to all Malian refugee camps, refugee hosting areas and vulnerable urban refugees.

Access to Energy

BURKINA FASO

Achievements and Impact

- Firewood for cooking purposes was provided on a regular basis. Between September and October, 51 tons were distributed to 4,344 refugee households in both camps. Refugee capacities to produce and sell improved stoves were strengthened through trainings and allowed blacksmith produced 1,000 stoves.

MAURITANIA

Achievements and Impact

- As part of an energy pilot project, UNHCR continued to provide cooking gas for 200 families with specific needs through its partner SOS Desert. In addition, UNHCR provided charcoal to some 1,500 families with specific needs.

NIGER

Achievements and Impact

- In order to reduce tensions between refugees and host communities and increase the purchasing power of refugees, UNHCR plans to provide access to cooking gas to refugees in Mangaize camp, following the successful implementation of a similar project in Abala camp since 2013, and the interventions by the NGOs Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund and Plan International in Tabareybarey camp. Implementation of this project is expected to start in early 2016.

Community Empowerment, Self-Reliance and Peaceful Coexistence

MALI

Achievements and Impact

- As part of the "RELANCE" project (support to self-reliance through micro-credit, support to agricultural production, support to small businesses), UNHCR's partner Mercy Corps trained 319 individuals (including returnees, IDP returnees, host communities) on agricultural techniques, water management, and composting, in Alafia, Soumpi and Dire (region of Timbuktu).
- In Sambaoulo (region of Mopti), UNHCR partnered with Stop Sahel, MINUSMA and FAO to carry out a project aimed at reinforcing peaceful coexistence through the creation of a 10 acre garden-perimeter, including a water tower. In the region of Gao (areas of Djidara, Bagoundjè, Gadeye, Njawa, N'tillit), cash assistance was provided to 212 people, including 141 returnees, for agricultural inputs and equipment. In Timbuktu and Alafia, 42 people received financial support to their

income-generating activities. Out of these, 12 returnee households (34 adults and 21 children) received cash assistance to assist them in their reintegration process.

- In Soboundou (Timbuktu region), an awareness raising campaign was launched by UNHCR's partner, the Danish Refugee Council, reaching 208 people, including 85 women, on peaceful coexistence. Participants included refugee returnees, administrative and political authorities, community and religious leaders, civil society, local community support centers. Radio messages on social cohesion were broadcast in local languages (Tamasheq, Fulani, and Songhai).

BURKINA FASO

Achievements and Impact

- As part of income-generating activities, female refugee artisans, cattle owners and milk producers were trained on financial education and financial services by UNHCR. Craftsmanship was continuously supported, and 20 refugee artisans benefitted from capacity building with the collaboration of Africa Tiss NGO.
- In the framework of the IKEA-funded Seeds for Solutions project, 668 cattle belonging to Malian refugees benefited from curative care, and milk kitchens benefited 6,037 children.

In Burkina Faso, a refugee artisan displays a product she created after participating in UNHCR/Afrika Tiss capacity building sessions © UNHCR / Belemnaba

MAURITANIA

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR places particular attention on strengthening refugees' self-reliance. More than 100 income-generating activities, which started in 2014 have now turned into flourishing small businesses, including sewing activities, butcheries and small shops. In addition, 78 new small businesses such as restaurants, shops, artisanal craft-making and photography started in 2015. In October, 180 beneficiaries of income-generating activities were trained on asset maintenance.
- UNHCR, through SOS Desert, continued to empower 1,872 women with access to gardening areas now representing some eight hectares of arable land in M'bera camp as well as 10 community milk-units and 500 goat herders who benefited from UNHCR's self-reliance strengthening programme. Gardening and other local food production activities play an important role in enriching refugees' diet and provide them with income resulting from the sale of vegetables, fruit and other products.
- Promoting peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities is also key activity in Mauritania. Through its partner SOS Desert, UNHCR supported communities in surroundings areas of M'bera camp with the construction of water wells, the fencing of arable land for agriculture as well as support to local shops.
- In order to promote peaceful coexistence, awareness-raising activities are regularly carried out. In September, two training sessions on 'conflict prevention and management' and one focus group discussion were organized by UNHCR, involving respectively 76 and 14 representatives of different groups from the host community.

NIGER

Achievements and Impact

- As part of a pilot initiative, UNHCR developed a 'contract approach' for refugee assistance to promote autonomy and self-reliance amongst Malian refugees. After an 18-month period following their signing of the contract, the households will engage in a withdrawal from material assistance while protection assistance will continue to be provided by UNHCR. In turn, households will receive OXF 10,000 per month to allow them to engage in livelihood activities. This amount is in addition to the OXL 10,000 received for NFI assistance. Thus far, 93 per cent of refugee households in Mangaize camp have accepted the 'contract approach.' Despite its success, this programme faces funding shortfalls impeding its further expansion.

Durable Solutions

MALI

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continued to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees from countries of asylum. In November, UNHCR followed the return of 36 households from Tabarabarey camp in Niger to Gao, Ansongo, Ouattagouna and Tessit. Each member of these households received OXL 35,000, or around USD 58, as part of UNHCR's programme to facilitate return.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

In Mali, UNHCR leads the protection cluster and closely engages with the Ministry of Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, and Reconstruction of the North to provide protection to returnees and IDPs. UNHCR is also partnering with FAO and MINUSMA in Mopti to rehabilitate water points and with UNDP and UNICEF in Menaka to bring peace culture in schools and provide IGAs to returnee women.

In line with the refugee coordination model, UNHCR leads the humanitarian response for Malian refugees in collaboration with UN organisations, national and international NGOs as follows:

- In Niger, UNHCR continues to work closely with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on shelter-related activities and with the Regional Directorates (hydraulics, public health, education) in Tahoua and Tillabery to integrate the refugee population into the national health, water and education systems and in the construction/rehabilitation/ reinforcement of community infrastructures.
- In Burkina Faso, UNHCR jointly with its government counterpart, the National Commission for Refugees, and nine implementing partners ensures protection of refugees and coordination of the response.
- In Mauritania, UNHCR continues to work in close collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization and the local authorities.

Presentation of a birth certificate to an IDP in Mali © UNHCR/K.Sipp

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR has reached a critical point in its humanitarian and protection response in Mali and neighbouring countries. While donor generosity has allowed UNHCR to continue scaling up its operations in line with the growing needs, UNHCR is now facing critical funding shortfalls to cover its operations in December and into 2016. Without additional donor contributions, UNHCR will be required to significantly limit the number of people supported with essential protection and humanitarian assistance and, in some cases, cease activities leading, for instance, to the closure of health centres or the termination of monthly food assistance in some areas in Burkina Faso. **UNHCR's 2015 financial requirements for the Mali Situation amount to USD 111.2 million**, including USD 56.5 million for the response in asylum countries. **The overall needs are currently funded at only 16 per cent.**

CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERFUNDING

The impact of any significant reductions in UNHCR's assistance and protection programmes is extremely worrying. Any reduction will likely increase protection concerns, including the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, early marriage, begging and human rights violations, while parents may also be forced to send their children to seek employment, exposing them to exploitation and depriving them from receiving an education.

While neighbouring countries have shown considerable generosity in hosting Malian refugees, the socio-economic costs on governments and local communities is becoming increasingly heavy. With tensions between refugees and host communities likely to be further exacerbated by decreased resources, UNHCR is concerned about adding to this burden, particularly at a time when there is insecurity in the northern Mali and in the region.

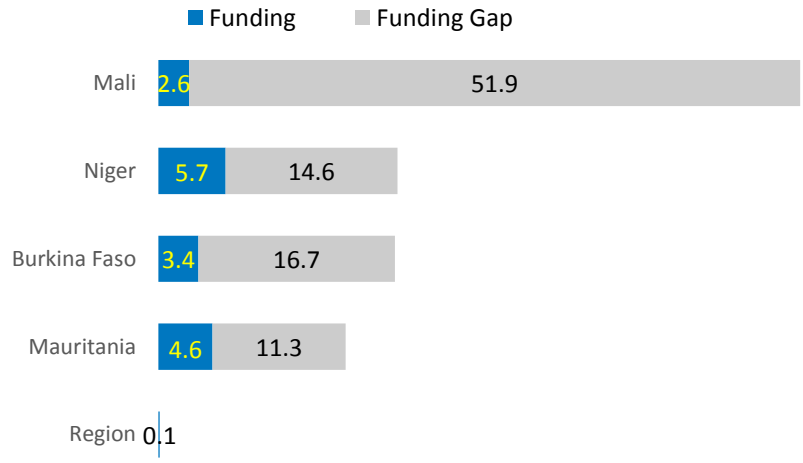
Meanwhile, the security of UNHCR and partner staff is of concern, especially in Mali and bordering areas in asylum counties. Reducing our presence would not only impact our ability to verify that UNHCR's assistance and protection programmes are reaching those in need, but would also expose those we reach to additional protection concerns.

Donors:

Belgium
Denmark
European Union
IKEA Foundation
Japan
Spain
Switzerland
United Arab Emirates
UN Peacebuilding Fund
Private donors (France, Switzerland, Italy)

Funding:

A total of USD 17.5 million has been contributed



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